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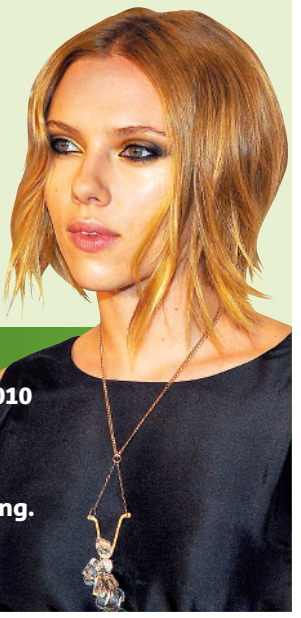
A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS
TENORS BUILDING ON SUCCESS {page 25}

ROCKS
WHERE SCARJO AND RYAN'S MARRIAGE WAS
{page 27}



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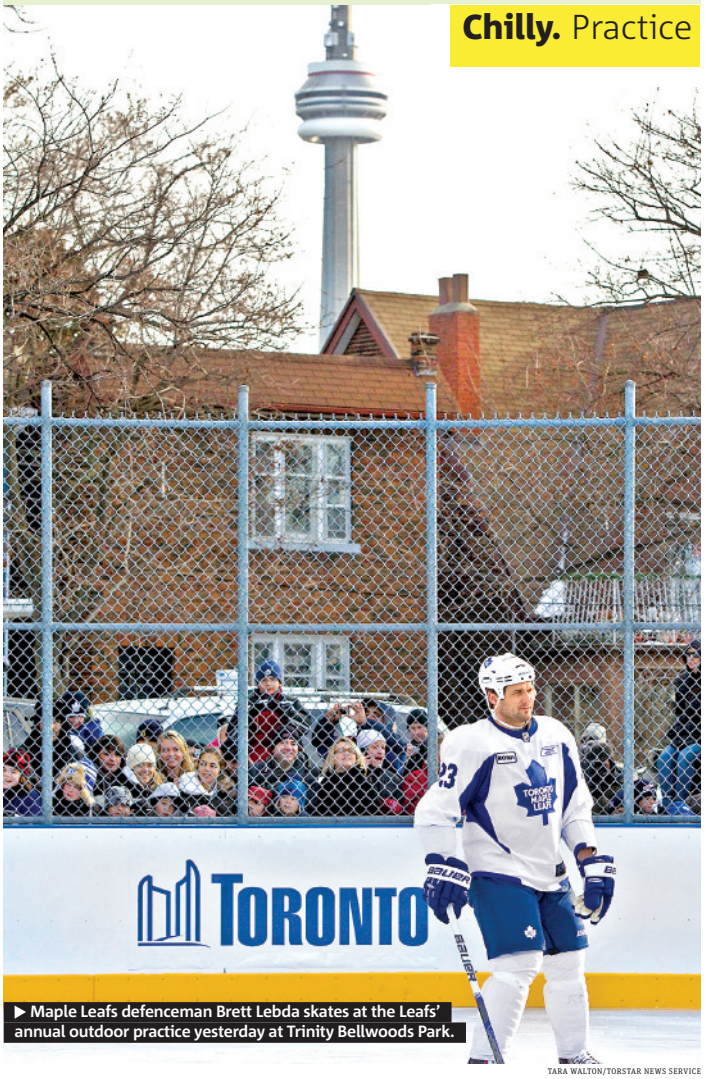

▶ Maple Leafs defenceman Brett Lebda skates at the Leafs' annual outdoor practice yesterday at Trinity Bellwoods Park.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Outdoor practice a waffle-free zone

Cops don't waffle on charges

Man charged with mischief after box of waffles thrown on the ice during Monday night's Leafs game

A 31-year-old man charged with mischief after throwing waffles on the ice at a Maple Leafs game says he did it out of frustration at the underperforming team.

"I'm just a normal Leafs fan and love them to death," Joseph Robb of Oakville said yesterday in an interview.

"I don't know, maybe this is what's needed to be done just to keep the attention on them. Because how many years are they going to go (without success)?"

His love affair will be from a distance, however, after being barred from the Air Canada Centre, as well as other MLSE events at BMO Field and Ricoh Coliseum.

Further punishment could follow from a January court appearance.

The waffle-toss in a 6-3 loss to Atlanta on Monday was the second such incident at the ACC this month.

Robb already is working on his defence.

"I see octopuses being thrown in Detroit games and hats being thrown on. Just because you're praising someone (with a hat for a hat trick), you can't throw something on when they're crap?" THE CANADIAN PRESS

Holiday gift horror stories

People share tales of their least favourite presents {page 3}

You're down to the wire

Last-minute gift ideas for you procrastinators {pages 39-45}

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‘It was the ugliest thing I’ve ever seen’

Notable Canadians dish on terrible gifts of Christmases past

We all have stories of gifts gone wrong.

On this, the second-last shopping day before Christmas, we share some of the most terrible gifts that notable Canadians have given or received. Each of these people assure the Toronto Star they are now quite generous and gracious, but they had a few stories worth mentioning.

Debra DiGiovanni, comedian

My parents were just shafted by terrible presents for years. The worst part is we were all in our teens and aware of what we were doing.

I bought my dad a bottle of Aqua Velva every single year. It was probably the cheapest aftershave you could buy without it being flammable alcohol for your father’s face.

Wayne Gretzky, hockey legend

Probably with my older boys, it was getting them clothes and socks that they never put on.

The best gift I ever received was a Gordie Howe jersey when I was six. Does that make your story better?

Kristyn Wong-Tam, city councillor for Ward 27

It was 1986 and my first trip back to Hong Kong in over 11 years. I left as a child and returned as a 15-year-old teenager.

For one of my elderly aunts, time had stood (still) and she still remembered me as a little girl. She gave me a silver fleece tracksuit with yellow cat illustrations all over it. It was delightfully soft to touch but I could never bring myself to wear it out of the house.

Nevertheless, I still enjoyed the gift because it was a reminder of my sweet aunt.

David Peterson, former premier of Ontario

It still haunts me. Some guy sent me a portrait he’d done of me. It was the ugliest thing I’ve ever seen in my life.

I don’t even know who the guy was. He might have been a great talent. Maybe I was ugly.

I put it in my basement and I used to bring it out to scare the kids when they misbehaved.

Terry Fallis, author of The Best Laid Plans, winner of the Stephen Leacock Award for humour

When I was in high school, I worked at a local gas station in the evenings and on weekends.

One year, I used my employee discount to give my mother a new car battery for Christmas, as she’d been having problems with hers. A lump of coal may well have given her as much joy on Christmas morning.

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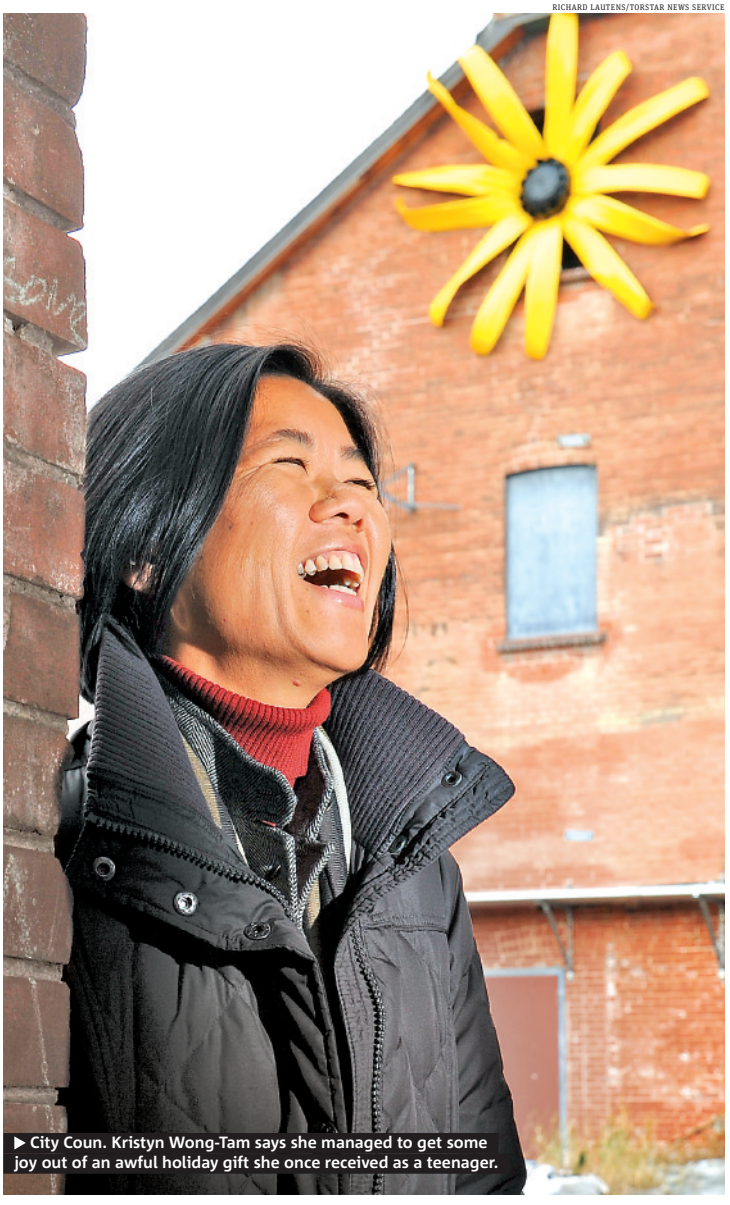
RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



▶ City Coun. Kristyn Wong-Tam says she managed to get some joy out of an awful holiday gift she once received as a teenager.

1 news

Insults, giggling, and a whiff of pot smoke among 2010 airport security complaints. Scan code for story.

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News in brief

Lululemon recalls bags

SHOPPERS. Canadian yoga retailer Lululemon Athletica is voluntarily withdrawing reusable bags, distributed free to customers, over concern they may contain lead. It says there is no concern with the use of the bag, only with its proper disposal. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Chocolate warning

ALLERGIES. People with milk allergies are being warned to avoid certain VSC Chocolats Brandy Bean Liqueur Chocolates because they may contain milk not declared on the label. The chocolates were sold in 200 gram packs with lot codes L7058 J8 and L5177 J8. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Court OKs settlement

HARD LANDING. An Ontario court has approved a settlement in a class-action lawsuit against now-defunct charter airline Skyservice. The airline has already paid out $300,000 to passengers aboard a 2005 flight that had a hard landing in the Dominican Republic. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Woman dies in car crash

BRAMPTON. Peel Region police say a woman delivering newspapers was killed in a car crash yesterday morning. An 18-year-old man is facing several charges in connection with the crash in Brampton. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

G20 officer sombre at SIU appearance

- Police provided SIU with 15 names two weeks ago
- 12 named as witnesses and three as subject officers

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani arrives at SIU headquarters yesterday.

Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani stepped out of a Ford SUV yesterday morning, buttoned his grey suit jacket over a blue shirt and walked into the Special Investigation Unit headquarters of his own accord.

The 30-year-old officer, who was working the day before at 31 Division's traffic unit — where one officer referred to him as "Bob" — looked sombre and remained tight-lipped.

He is the first officer charged with assaulting a G20 protester. The spotlight pointed squarely on him.

As is standard protocol when someone is charged with a criminal offence, Andalib-Goortani was fingerprinted and had his photo taken at the SIU's lab. He was served a summons, asking him to appear in court Jan. 24. Accompanied by his lawyer, the whole process took approximately 20 minutes.

The single charge was laid by the police watchdog Tuesday after a single officer identified the constable as the nameless, badgeless cop who was seen in a video wielding a baton against protester Adam Nobody.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Earlier case

This isn't the first time accusations have been made against Const. Babak Andalib-Goortani, whose division serves, among others, the Jane and Finch area.

- **Crack cocaine.** In a 2008 crack cocaine possession case, lawyers for the defendant questioned his use of force.
- **Kicked.** Andalib-Goortani testified that he kicked a man three or four times in the abdomen with his front heel to get him into a police car, according to court papers. Then, later on, hit him with his baton to gain control outside the hospital as he lunged away from the entrance.
- **Force.** The judge ruled that while force was justified, it was also "of concern."

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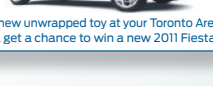

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Cost of borrowing is $128/$125/$173/$190 for 72/72/72/72 months with a down payment of $0/$0/$0 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $1,689/$0/$2,309/$2,511 or APR of 2.99%/0%/2.99%/2.99% and total to be repaid is $19,968/$19,500/$26,988/$29,640. All offers include Freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. Bi-Weekly payments are only available using a customer initiated PC (Internet Banking) or Phone Pay system through the customer's own bank (if offered by that financial institution). The customer is required to sign a monthly payment contract and furnish a cheque in the amount of the first bi-weekly payment on the contract date. Subsequent bi-weekly payments will be made via a PC or Phone Pay system commencing 2 weeks following the contract date. ▼ Program in effect from Oct. 1/10, to Jan. 3/11 (the "Program Period"). To qualify for a Ford Recycle Your Ride Program ("RYR") rebate ("Rebate(s)"), customer must qualify for and take part in either the "Retire Your Ride Program" delivered by Summerhill Impact with financial support from the Government of Canada, or Summerhill Impact's "Car Heaven Program." To qualify for the "Retire Your Ride Program", which offers $300 cash or rebate on the purchase of a 2004 or newer vehicle, customer must turn in a 1995 model year or older vehicle in running condition (able to start and move) which has been properly registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.) to an authorized recycler. To qualify for the "Car Heaven Program", customer must turn in a 2003 model year or older vehicle in running condition which has been registered and insured for the last 6 months to an authorized recycler. If a customer qualifies for Car Heaven or Retire Your Ride, Ford of Canada ("Ford") will provide an additional Rebate, with the purchase or lease of an eligible new 2010/2011 Ford or Lincoln vehicle, in the amount of $1,000 CDN (Focus (excluding 2015 S), Fusion (excluding 2015 S), Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500 and 2011 Value Leader), Transit Connect, Ranger (excluding 2011 XL) I4 Manual), Edge (excluding 2011 SE), Flex (excluding 2011 SE), Explorer (excluding 2011 Regular Cab XL and XLT), F150-550, E-Series, Expedition, MKZ, MKS, MKT, Navigator) (each an "Eligible Vehicle"). Rebate amount may be used as a down payment. Taxes payable before Rebate amount is deducted. 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All rights reserved. ^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Ford Fiesta SE Hatch/Focus SE/Escape I4 2.5L I-4 Automatic for $18,279/$19,479/$24,679/$27,129 a monthly payment of $278.37/$277.27/$375.58/$410.82 (the sum of twelve (12) monthly payments, divided by 26 periods gives payee a bi-weekly payment of $128/$125/$173/$190) for 72/72/72/72 months with a down payment of $0/$0/$0/$0 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $1,689/$0/$2,309/$2,511 or APR of 2.99%/0%/2.99%/2.99% and total to be repaid is $19,968/$19,500/$26,988/$29,640. All offers include Freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. 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Contest closes Dec. 18/10. Skill-testing question required. Prize may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for full contest rules.

City on hook for repairs to subway bridge

Gas workers damaged bridge last year, leading to six-hour shutdown Incident galling to commuters because of TTC fare hike approved a day earlier

The city expects to spend $618,000 to fix damage that shut down the Yonge subway line just over a year ago.

But it's unclear whether the city will be compensated for the construction mishap on the Jackes Avenue bridge over the subway that led to a six-hour shutdown between Bloor and Eglinton stations on Nov. 18, 2009.

A contractor working for Enbridge Gas Distribution accidentally cut through the bridge deck, revealing the subway tracks below.

Temporary supports were installed after the incident, and the city has now awarded a contract for the permanent repair, which includes replacing the damaged portion and repaving.

"The way it is right now is the city will pay for the work up-front," said Mike Laidlaw, acting manager of structures and expressways in the transportation division.

"Once the work is done and the costs are finalized, we would discuss with the other parties about any sort of cost-sharing."

Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong, chair of council's public works and infrastructure committee, said taxpayers shouldn't be left on the hook.

"If it's their (Enbridge's) fault, they should pay for it," Minnan-Wong said. "We feel really strongly that we're going to recover the costs of the repairs."

The TTC is not involved, said spokesperson Brad Ross.

"It's a city of Toronto issue," Ross said. "It's their bridge, it's their roadway."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tutor charged in sexual assault of two teens

A Toronto man who runs a tutoring business has been charged in the alleged sexual assaults of two teenage girls.

Phong Mai is accused of sexually assaulting the girls, aged 15 and 16, starting in September 2009.

Peel Regional Police say Mai owns and operates a tutoring business with six separate locations — two in Mississauga, one in Brampton, one in Vaughan and two in Toronto.

They say one of the alleged victims was a student and one was a tutor.

Police are appealing for witnesses and any other possible victims to come forward.

Mai, 34, who was arrested on Tuesday, is charged with two counts of sexual assault, one count of sexual exploitation and one count of sexual interference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Liberal MPP Peter Fonseca

SITTING MPP TO RUN FOR FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

'HE'S GOT TO RESIGN'

Former provincial labour minister Peter Fonseca should resign his seat in the Ontario legislature now that he's been appointed as a Liberal candidate in the next federal election, the opposition parties said yesterday.

Federal Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff on Monday appointed Fonseca as a candidate in the Mississauga East-Cooksville riding that he still represents provincially, eliminating the need for Fonseca to win a local nomination meeting.

The Progressive Conservatives and New Democrats said Fonseca should quit the legislature now, instead of waiting for an election, so he can focus his attention on becoming a Member of Parliament.

NDP critic Peter Kormos said Fonseca has "no business running as a federal MP while he's collecting an MPP's salary.

"He's got to resign."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NATIVITY SCENES

Vandals steal manger, Baby Jesus, Wise Man and all

What kind of person would steal Baby Jesus? Or decapitate a camel? What wise guy would swipe a Wise Man?

Godless grinches with no respect for the sacred symbols of Christmas, that's who.

That's the opinion of crèche keepers whose nativity scenes are violated by vandals. It happens every year as figures of Mary, Joseph and Jesus take their places in outdoor depictions of the biblical story of the birth of God's son.

"It's almost always Baby Jesus that gets taken," sighs Joanne McGarry, executive director of the Catholic Civil Rights League, who regularly hears reports about theft and damage to religious symbols. "A lot more displays are using Plexiglas for protection."

But even that doesn't always work. The Nativity scene in front of Toronto's Old City Hall courthouse, a popular target, had its front panel smashed this month. Other years, its Baby Jesus disappeared, and lights and wiring were destroyed.

McGarry is disturbed that tradition is under attack. "It's really nice to see religious symbols in public places. That's what Christmas is all about."

Surveillance cameras didn't stop a group of young people from waltzing off with a two-metre Wise Man from a Whitby church a couple of weeks ago.

"We have faces but no names. It was a bunch of people goofing off," says Rick Barnes, council chair of Brooklin United Church. "It's disappointing. The $150 plus the labour to replace it could be better used to go to a shelter or food bank."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Immigrant agencies losing federal funds

Ontario Immigration Minister Eric Hoskins has asked for a meeting with Ottawa to demand that these cuts for 2011 be reversed

At least 10 Greater Toronto immigrant-service agencies have been told by Citizenship and Immigration Canada that their program funding will not be renewed next year, with up to 35 others across Ontario also facing "significant" cuts.

The settlement agencies, which offer language classes, help in finding jobs and other integration programs for thousands of newcomers each year, stand to lose tens of millions in funding. In all likelihood, the 10 agencies face closing next year, as the bulk of their funding comes from Ottawa.

Hundreds of jobs are also on the line in the sector, where settlement workers and administrators are now living in "a climate of fear," sources say.

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Staff at the South Asian Women's Centre at 800 Lansdowne Ave. at their office yesterday.

Among the agencies losing their federal funding are the South Asian Women's Centre and Tropicana Community Services, which serves disadvantaged Caribbean families and youth.

"We'll have to shut down without their funding," said South Asian Women's Centre executive director Kripa Sekhar, whose agency received $570,000 or 67 per cent of overall funding from Ottawa. It served 14,000 clients last year. "There will be a vacuum in servicing these women."

"Many of our staff are immigrant women themselves, just like our clients. Everyone is upset."
KRIPA SEKHAR, SOUTH ASIAN WOMEN'S CENTRE

In total, $53 million is being cut from settlement programs across Canada. More than $43 million of that will come from Ontario, which will see its 2011 settlement funding down to $344 million.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

More wild storms for Southern California

Officials order evacuation of 232 homes in L.A. foothills Landslide collapses busy interstate highway

After days of relentless rain, Southern California is awaiting the most intense storm system yet, with evacuations ordered, roads covered by water and mud, and residents anxiously eyeing already saturated mountainsides denuded by wildfires.

Forecasters expected more rain across the state yesterday, but the focus clearly was on Southern California where a monster storm was expected to bring torrential rain, thunderstorms, flooding, hail and possible tornadoes and water spouts. Forecasters warned of possible rainfall rates of 20 to 25 millimetres an hour and thunderstorm rates of 50 millimetres an hour in the region. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Torrents of rain

- **Downtown Los Angeles** received more than one-third of its annual rainfall in less than a week.
- **California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger** declared a state of emergency in six counties.

"It's going to be a three-ring circus."
BILL HOFFER, NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKESPERSON

Travel. Woes

▶ Passengers line up to have their boarding passes checked yesterday at London's Heathrow Airport.

ALASTAIR GRANT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snow slows Heathrow

Heathrow's boss announced yesterday he would give up his hefty bonus this year after the world's busiest international airport was crippled by snowy conditions. Air and train travel throughout Europe finally began to return to normal after a winter storm led to widespread flight cancellations.

Weather wallops Atlantic Canada

100 About 100 New Brunswick residents left their homes for higher ground when flooding began yesterday.

Emergency officials in Atlantic Canada are assessing the damage from the latest barrage of coastal flooding and high winds as a storm continues to pound parts of the region.

An official with the New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization said yesterday early assessments showed more than 160 buildings along the province's eastern coast were damaged by a powerful storm surge that combined with 100 km/h gusts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman's leg run over during parking dispute

Provincial police in Kingsville, Ont., are looking for three people in a car that ran over a woman's leg during a dispute that included a man lying shirtless in the snow.

Police say two males and a female were "causing an issue" in a parking lot, yelling and screaming, and one of the males was lying in the snow not wearing a shirt.

A nearby resident asked them to leave and an argument ensued with one of the males — the one wearing a shirt.

The three people causing the disturbance were in a small, silver four-door car. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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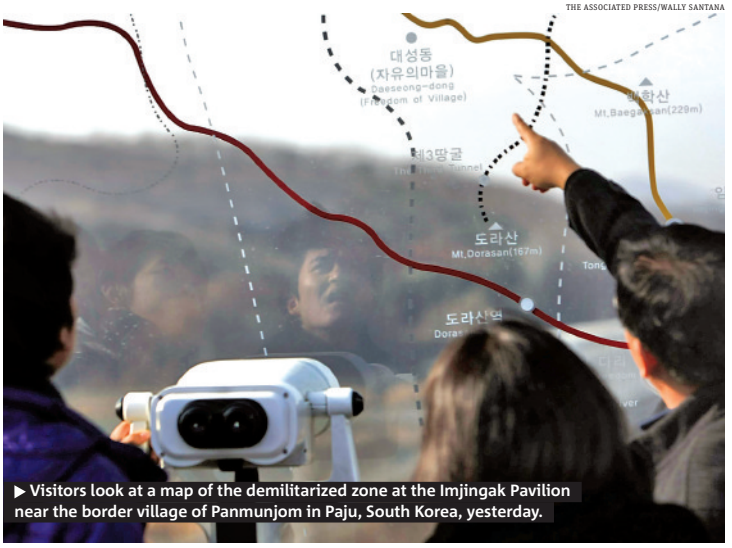
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/WALLY SANTANA



▶ Visitors look at a map of the demilitarized zone at the Imjingak Pavilion near the border village of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea, yesterday.

Korea tensions rise over South's border exercises

Seoul says it will retaliate strongly if military drills prompt attack ◐ Candlelight vigil for 4 killed by North

South Korea vowed yesterday to "completely punish" North Korea if it attacks again, and mobilized hundreds of troops, tanks and helicopters for a massive military exercise prompted by high tensions on the peninsula.

The firing drills planned for today near the Koreas' heavily armed land border signalled that South Korea is willing to risk further escalating tensions with North Korea, which shelled a southern island off the western coast on Nov. 23 and stirred up a war-like atmosphere.

The attack, which killed four people, was portrayed by Pyongyang as a retaliation for southern military exercises on Yeonpyeong island that day.

Still at war

The two Koreas remain technically at war since their 1950s conflict ended in a ceasefire, not a peace treaty.

South Korea has conducted 47 similar military drills this year, and it scheduled one more exercise for today in response to the North Korean attack, an army officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. Today's drill will be the biggest-ever wintertime joint firing exercise that South Korea's army and air force have staged, an army statement said.

"We will completely punish the enemy if it provokes us again like the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island," Brig. Gen. Ju Eun-sik, chief of the army's 1st armoured brigade, said separately.

South Korean forces are on high alert even though the North backed down from its threat to again retaliate over a separate firing drill the South held Monday on Yeonpyeong in disputed western waters.

The North has made conciliatory remarks in recent days — telling a visiting U.S. governor it might allow international inspections of its nuclear programs — but Seoul is mindful of past surprise attacks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARDAN PALACE, TURKEY

Power cut to luxury hotel

A Turkish regional electricity company has cut supplies to one of the world's top luxury hotels over unpaid bills, say local media.

The Mardan Palace, owned by a Russian businessman and voted the leading luxury hotel by the World Travel Awards in 2010, has three weeks to pay off $2.6 million US in debts or face being referred to a bailiff court, Aksam newspaper reported yesterday.

The 546-room hotel on the Mediterranean was launched last year with a gala evening attended by Sharon Stone, Richard Gere and heiress Paris Hilton. It is now using its own generators to power rooms.

Aksam quoted the hotel's manager as saying the issue stemmed from an end of year budgeting problem and promised to pay the debt. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN plans more troops for Somalia

Moving to better protect Somalia's weak, UN-backed government from armed opposition groups, the UN Security Council unanimously agreed yesterday to increase the peacekeeping force there by 50 per cent, from 8,000 to 12,000 troops. Council members also authorized the African Union to extend its deployment of the peacekeeping force through Sept. 30, 2011.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Provinces win right to regulate in-vitro fertilization

Justice Thomas Cromwell offers determining view in split vote Says many provisions fall under provinces

A divided Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of the provinces to regulate in-vitro fertilization. But the court said the federal government is within its rights in banning cloning and human hybrids.

The court issued a divided advisory opinion that grappled with the "weighty moral concerns" of assisted reproduction. It upheld in part a 2008 Quebec Court of Appeal decision that declared Ottawa overstepped itself in asserting its right to regulate the use of human sperm, eggs and embryos.

The court split 4-4-1 with Justice Thomas Cromwell offering the determining view in what amounted to a complex analysis of the time-honoured constitutional rights of provinces to control health care.

Power imbalance

Four other judges upheld the right of the provinces to regulate health care.

Justices Louis Lebel and Marie Deschamps wrote that although assisted human reproduction "raises moral and ethical questions," an overriding federal criminal law was not justified.

Quebec filed a constitutional challenge to the 2004 federal Assisted Human Reproduction Act and was supported by three other provinces. The province argued that Ottawa was treading on provincial jurisdiction over health care.

The act regulated the use of sperm, eggs and embryos, while banning clones and hybrids. Ottawa maintained it had the right make criminal laws and that the purpose of the act was to protect the "health, safety and public morals" of Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Christmas. Miracle

▶ In a photo taken earlier this month, Tracy Hermanstorfer watches as Coltyn offers dad Mike Hermanstorfer a bite of a french fry at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy to be alive, one year later

Tracy Hermanstorfer, now 34, went into cardiac arrest while preparing to give birth to Coltyn at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 24, 2009. Doctors quickly delivered Coltyn by emergency Cesarean section, but he appeared lifeless. Mike Hermanstorfer, who was at his wife's side when her heart stopped beating, thought he had lost both her and their newborn son. But doctors revived Coltyn as Hermanstorfer cradled him in his arms, and about 45 minutes later, a nurse told him his wife's pulse had inexplicably returned.

Mayor had alliance: WikiLeaks

A U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks says the mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, has acknowledged forging an alliance of convenience with an alleged drug baron to reduce crime in the sprawling slums. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential pardon stirs outrage

Did governor promise Billy the Kid pardon for testimony?

Family loses home in fire

A family in Brantford, Ont., has lost their home and their puppies in a fire.

Brant County firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours as the blaze roared through a farmhouse overnight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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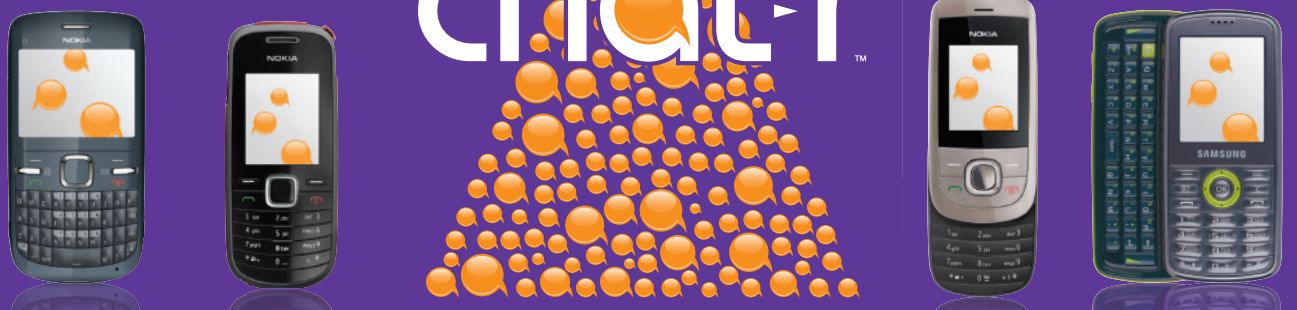

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MANU FERNANDEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A man celebrates after winning a portion of the main prize of Spain's Christmas lottery yesterday.

'The Fat One' brings Spain joy

Thousands of tickets win money Lottery sales remain stable despite country's economic woes

Spain's beloved Christmas lottery sprinkled 2.3 billion euros ($3 billion US) in holiday cheer across the country yesterday, winnings eagerly welcomed by a nation facing 20 per cent unemployment.

The lottery billed as the world's richest has no single jackpot but operates a complex share-the-wealth system in which thousands of five-digit numbers win at least something. It is known as "El Gordo" (The Fat One) and dates back to 1812. Tax-free winnings range from the face value of a 20 euro ticket to a top prize of 300,000 euros.

The sweepstakes informally ushers in the Christmas season. Many Spaniards spend the day glued to TV sets, radios and computers, waiting to see if they are among the lucky. People often team up to buy shares of tickets sold by bars, sports clubs and business offices.

In lottery-crazed Spain — there are easily a dozen others beside the Christmas one — sales of El Gordo tickets remained stable from last year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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* meadowlands power centre	905-304-6436	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
BARRIE		
georgian mall	705-728-0623	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
BRAMPTON		
* trinity commons power centre	905-789-6933	(8am - 7pm on dec. 26)
BURLINGTON		
mapleview shopping centre	905-631-3300	(8am - 7pm on dec. 26)
HAMILTON		
limeridge mall	905-388-3342	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
MARKHAM		
* hwy. 7 & woodbine	905-940-4660	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
MISSISSAUGA		
* dixie outlet mall	905-486-0002	(8:30am - 7pm on dec. 26)
erin mills shopping centre	905-569-0441	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
* heartland shopping centre	905-501-1333	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
square one	905-275-2333	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
* winston churchill at hwy. 401	905-824-8073	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
NEWMARKET		
upper canada mall	905-898-7018	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
NIAGARA FALLS		
* canada one	905-358-0127	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
fallsview casino	905-358-3086	(10am - 12am on dec. 25)
OAKVILLE		
oakville place	905-844-9522	(9:30am - 5pm on dec. 26)
OSHAWA		
oshawa centre	905-579-4938	(9am - 6pm on dec. 26)
PICKERING		
* brock / 401 power centre	905-683-8886	(8am - 7pm on dec. 26)
SCARBOROUGH		
* eglinton town centre	416-751-4083	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
scarborough town centre	416-296-0493	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
TORONTO		
DUFFERIN MALL - NEW	416-916-2158	(8am - 6pm on dec. 26)
fairview mall	416-490-1636	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
promenade mall	905-771-6608	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
sherway gardens	416-620-4030	(8am - 8pm on dec. 26)
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VAUGHAN		
vaughan mills	905-669-9471	(8am - 9pm on dec. 26)
WOODBRIDGE		
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Crosswalk 'chirp' warning not going to fly

- Sound is too similar to that of an actual bird
- Group recommends changing to four-note tune

The high-pitched "chirp, chirp" of a small bird is falling silent at busy intersections across Canada.

But naturalists need not worry.

The sound is actually an electronic signal that lets visually impaired pedestrians know when they have the right-of-way to cross east-west streets.

It is being phased out across the country because it sounds too much like the song of a real bird: The northern cardinal.

"It also sounded like the backup beeper on some trucks and some motorcycle turn signals and therefore could be confusing," says Hart Solomon, manager of traffic engineering with the City of Hamilton and an adviser to the Transportation Association of Canada.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

▶ The upgrades can cost between $5,000 and $10,000 per intersection.

The association, which has drafted national guidelines for Accessible Pedestrian Signals, is recommending municipalities replace the bird-like sound with a four-note tune known as the Canadian Melody.

The newer signal was first used in Montreal, where the musical tones were originally dubbed the Montreal Melody. The name was changed in 2008 when the national guidelines were updated.

Meanwhile, the audible crosswalk signal for north-south streets will continue to be a digitized sound of the common cuckoo.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. military gays don't have to lie anymore

'I say to all Americans, gay or straight ... we will be honoured to welcome you into the ranks': Obama

Declaring that members of the U.S. military will no longer be asked to lie, U.S. President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign promise yesterday and signed a landmark law repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed services.

The signing ceremony was a breakthrough moment for the U.S. gay community, the military and for Obama himself.

The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law and faced pressure from liberals, a significant base in his Democratic party, who complained he was not acting swiftly enough.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Barack Obama

The new law is the second of three expected victories in what's turned out to be — for Obama — a surprisingly productive post-election Congress.

Weeks after his self-described "shellacking" in the Nov. 2 vote, he has won lopsided approval of a tax cut compromise with the opposition Republicans, and the Senate is poised to deliver his top foreign policy goal: Ratification of a new nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

The new law affecting the military ends the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. Its repeal comes as American public opinion on such issues as gay marriage and gay rights in general has grown more tolerant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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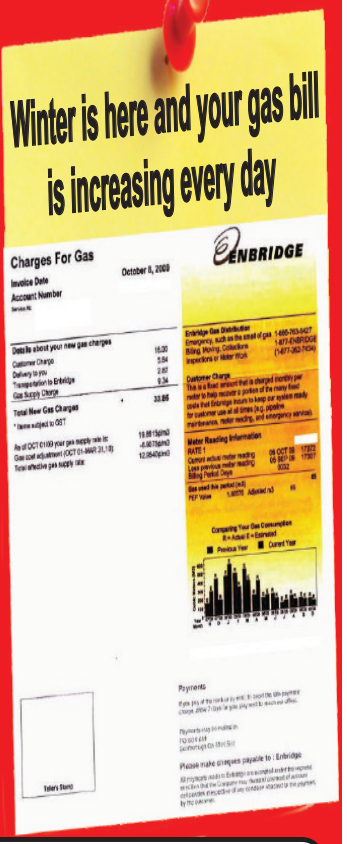

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WHAT'S A TRADITION WITHOUT TRADITION?

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

It's that special time of year when columnists write irritating clichés like "it's that special time of year."

I'm contributing to the ritual this year because it's become clear I don't have enough annual traditions.

I've fought against repeating myself my whole life: When the bartender knows what I want, it's time for a new drink. When I'm starting to enjoy a job, it's time to move. When it seems I've settled on a toothpaste, it's time to brush around. (Keep it under your cap, but Crest and Colgate don't even know about each other.)

This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant — the life equivalent of splashing in the bathtub.

I do have a few traditions, but nothing reassuring: I bang my hip on the corner of the kitchen table with the precision and regularity of the Queen's Guard. I watch the Boston Bruins lose in the playoffs, like clockwork, every spring. And every time I'm in my hometown my best friend and I go to a major fast food chain and order the "special" burger of the moment. I eat it first and describe in detail just how horrible it is, then he eats it and agrees.

"This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant ..."

You see why I would want some more heartwarming (not heart-burning) traditions.

My Christmases are not consistent, except that they keep getting worse. This year it's my only day off, with five days of work on one side and six on the other. Ho ho ho.

And I grew up with all the traditions: Warm house; stockings; presents; food; family; mother yelling, "Why can't we have a nice Christmas?!" and running off to cry. (That happened twice, which makes it tradition.)

I need some of that again. So here are a few Yuletide rituals I'm considering:

• Join the Christians who complain that the words "Happy Holidays" are an assault on their faith, rather than an attempt to include other faiths. I'm not Christian, but it's fun to be the underdog, especially when you number two billion.

• Recreate the big family Christmas. Set up a huge table with 12 place settings, all the trimmings, decorations, and a children's table off to the side. Then sit at it alone in contemplative silence.

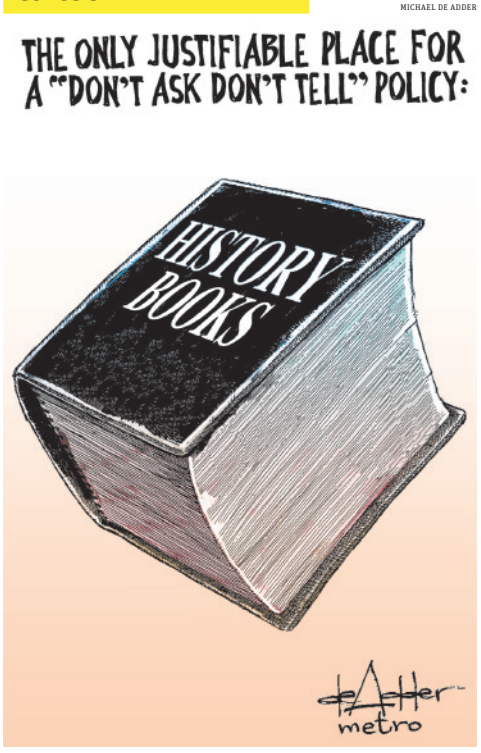
• End the annual Christmas column with irritating clichés like, "Best of the season to you and yours" and "Merry Christmas."

Oh, and best of the season to you and yours. Merry Christmas!

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Certainly not child's play

Worth mentioning

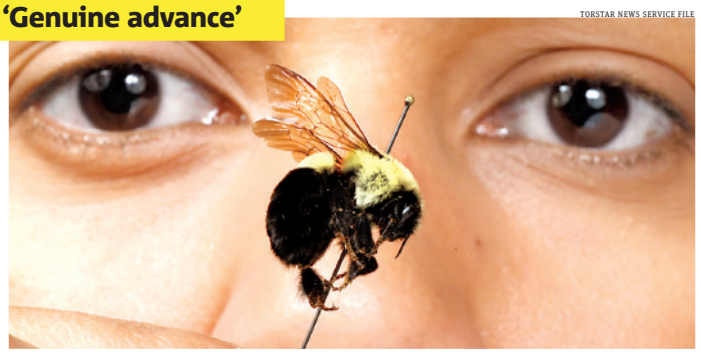
It came with wobbly writing and hand-drawn diagrams, but an elementary school science project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal from Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Biology Letters published a report yesterday conducted and written by a group of eight- to 10-year-olds from an English elementary school investigating the way bumblebees see colours and patterns.

The scientific organization said the children reported findings that were a "genuine advance" in the field of insect colour and pattern vision.

'Genuine advance'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



Working with a neuroscientist from University College London, the children carefully documented their methodology and discussed the data they collected.

The group trained bees to go to targets of different colours by giving them a sugar reward, and reported that the insects are able to learn and remember cues based on colour and pattern. Scientists who commented on the kids' report in the journal say although the experiments were modest and lacked statistical analyses, they were cleverly and correctly designed and hold their own compared to those conducted by highly trained specialists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What was your favourite memory of 2010?

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Metro Minute with Telus taxi cab

You're laden with bags on a snowy, crowded Toronto street and you realize you haven't called your grandmother in Victoria since last Christmas. Your bags suddenly droop with the weight of your guilt-ravaged heart. Then, like a four-wheeled knight in shining armour (just go with this one), you spot a festive red vehicle. It stops right in front of you, a door magically opens (keep going), and a jovial taxi driver invites you to ride — for free — in his unmetered chariot. Why, it's the magical Telus taxi! One of 10 vehicles circling the city in search of people, like you, who need a ride. Who said Santa only rides in a sleigh?

JORDANA DIVON

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Telus has unleashed a fleet of taxis that will take you where you need to go, and provide you with a free phone call to anywhere in North America. Look for the telltale Telus sign.

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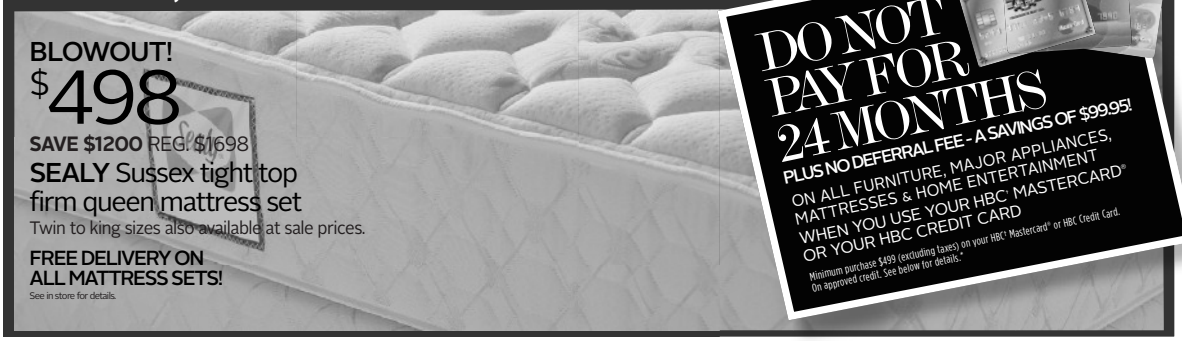

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Economy faces risks in 2011: Report

Canada's economy will grow by about 2.3% next year, unemployment will remain at 7.9%: IMF Economy advanced by 3% in 2010

The risks to Canada's economic recovery are increasing and could curtail growth in the future, the International Monetary Fund warns in a new outlook for the country.

Overall, the fund's end-of-the-year report on Canada gives a generally positive assessment, especially in comparison to other countries.

But it cited several "key risks" that could restrain the recovery and growth in employment, including an overheated housing market, high household debt and the weak recovery in the U.S.

"Risks are elevated and tilted to the downside with high household debt levels the main domestic risk, and a weaker U.S. outlook the largest external risk," the report states.

In a conference call, IMF Canadian mission chief Charles Kramer said the good news is that an economic collapse in Canada is not the most likely scenario, and if a downturn were to occur, Ottawa and the Bank of Canada have room to respond.

He noted that, unlike other countries, the central bank's policy interest rate is at one per cent — not zero — so governor Mark Carney has room to cut.

And Ottawa's fiscal position is also far better than many other advanced countries, with relatively low net debt to gross domestic product.

"It's important to remain vigilant to any risks that could emerge. After our discussions in Ottawa and Toronto, we have confidence that the authorities are very much on the same page."
CHARLES KRAMER, IMF CANADIAN MISSION CHIEF

Kramer said one option for the government in case of a sudden downturn is to accelerate the pace of corporate tax cuts, which are scheduled to be reduced to 15 per cent in 2012, and to increase infrastructure spending.

Kramer said Ottawa's decision to "smooth" the withdrawal of infrastructure spending to the end of October was welcome given the moderate recovery.

The report flagged several concerns in the domestic economy, however, including the overheated housing market, saying the sector has reached its peak and may be due for a correction, although a collapse is not likely. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Magnate. Corporate compromise

▶ Magna's Frank Stronach speaks in Markham in this May 2010 photo.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stronach settles with shareholders

The battle between Magna International founder Frank Stronach and minority shareholders of MI Developments Inc. has ended in a truce that will give him ownership of several racetracks in exchange for control of the company, according to a report. It was reported that MI Developments' minority shareholders will take control of the company and its real estate.

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Canadian firms set for buying spree: Report

The high loonie, increasing demand for goods in Asia and companies looking to spend their idle cash will lead to more mergers and takeovers involving Canadian businesses next year after a slight dip in 2010, according to business consultants and auditing firm KPMG.

KPMG says companies will be looking to emerging markets as a way to expand their boundaries and invest money sitting in bank accounts.

Adding the high dollar and favourable exchange rates to the mix makes it more affordable for Canadian companies to buy foreign ones, KPMG said.

"I think there's going to be opportunities in eastern Europe and the rest of Europe for Canadian companies ... with huge growth in those emerging economies like China and India," Peter Hatges, president of KPMG Corporate Finance, added.

KPMG estimates a little more than 1,800 transactions involving Canadian companies will be completed this year with a total value of between $114 billion US and $117 billion US. THE CANADIAN PRESS

6.8B The biggest single Canadian deal completed this year was the $6.8-billion US acquisition of Red Back Mining by Kinross Gold Corp.

FORD WINDSTAR

Corrosion issue probed

The U.S. government is upgrading its investigation into Ford Windstar minivans amid additional concerns over corrosion in the vehicles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says in a posting on its website that it has begun an engineering analysis of about 550,000 Windstars from the 1999-2003 model years.

Ford has recalled more than 600,000 of the minivans since August to address rear axles that can corrode and break, about 123,000 of them in Canada.

The U.S. recall is limited to 22 cold weather states where road salt is used during the winter.

The U.S. government says it has received 346 complaints of corrosion and breaking of the front subframe, which carries the engine, transaxle, steering rack and front suspension. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Canadian Tenors, from left, Fraser Walters, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira. With help from Oprah Winfrey, success-crammed 2010 was a 'Perfect Gift' for the popera quartet.

The ultimate bromance

By late 2009 the Canadian Tenors had built a solid homegrown following
Group's popularity skyrocketed after they appeared on the Oprah show

A year after releasing their first hit album, the Canadian Tenors are delivering The Perfect Gift, a compilation of traditional and contemporary holiday music.

"You have the classics like O Holy Night and Silent Night, but there are songs that are not necessarily Christmas-specific," explained tenor Victor Micallef. "Some great producers worked on that, as well," added band mate Clifton Murray. Hallelujah was (produced by) Bob Ezrin, who worked on The Wall.

That's as in Pink Floyd's The Wall — just one of many aspects of The Tenors that may surprise. The quartet's clean-cut, all-North American looks scream "pre-fab," and, indeed, the band was the brainchild of Canadian composer Jill Ann Siemens, who first started work on the project some 10 years ago. The current configuration of the group is Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters.

"We started grassroots and just slowly built up. We cut our teeth on the road doing that."
CANADIAN TENOR REMIGIO PEREIRA

The recent holiday album was released in October, months after the group's debut album The Canadian Tenors ranked at the top of Billboard's Classical Albums chart.

Before making inroads in the U.S., Pereira said, the group did 12 shows in 12 small towns in western Saskatchewan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joined at the hip

The Canadian Tenors spend more time together on the road than they do with their families these days.

- **The four** wrapped up their 2010 tour schedule Tuesday night in Fort Worth, Texas.
- **They plan** to head back north, to the singers' respective homes for the holidays.

Complex role demands multiple interpretations: Director

This Mirvish production of A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum comes with two perspectives of the same brilliant slave.

Pseudolus is the wise-cracking property of Hero in Ancient Rome. In this adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's 1966 musical comedy, Pseudolus will be performed on some nights by comedy veteran Sean Cullen, and other nights by Shakespearean actor Bruce Dow.

"My background is in classical ballet so I'm perfect for the pole dancing scenes."
ACTOR BRUCE DOW

With two leading men with such distinct training and background, is director Des McAnuff having his cake and eating it too?

"Absolutely," replies McAnuff at the Canon Theatre. "Sean's Pseudolus is a bit like Jackie Gleason. He has amazing comic timing, and he's sometimes darker than you would expect. Bruce is an experienced Shakespearean clown. His Pseudolus is often sweet and tender, but with surprises."

DAVID HOU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Bruce Dow

"Ideally, people should see the both versions," concludes McAnuff.

In this comedy, Pseudolus wants freedom. His master wants the girl next door, who is promised to a big, strong warrior. Owner Hero uses slave Pseudolus's quick wit and creative lying to get the girl while the slave earns his freedom.

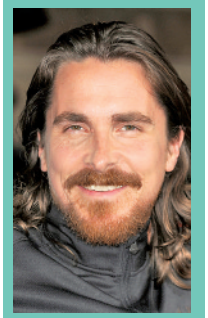
The plan is for each performer to act four shows at a time. Viewers can choose between a sweet Pseudolus or a gritty one.

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum continues at Canon Theatre until January 16.

JOHN KEILLOR

2 scene

Scene in brief



Christian Bale will star in Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou's new project about 13 young prostitutes who help save compatriots from Japanese troops rampaging Nanjing, the latest film exploring a World War II-era atrocity that stirs nationalism in China.

Bale, currently co-starring in the boxing drama The Fighter, will portray an American priest in the movie, which is expected to start filming in Nanjing on Jan. 10, the Chinese director told reporters yesterday.

Bale was picked because of his versatility and dedication to his roles, Zhang said, noting he was impressed by the research Bale did into the history of the massacre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ScanLife

CBS to bring 3 rookie series aboard for midseason; Blue Bloods, Rules get new slots

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Album reviews

A classic ●●●●● | Buy it ●●●● | Get the single ●●● | Borrow it ●● | Don't bother ●

Ghostface Killah
Album: Apollo Kids
Label: Def Jam
●●●●½
After subjecting us to a deadpan R&B experiment a year ago, Ghostface gets back on track with his ninth album. Even without RZA behind the boards, Apollo Kids manages to evoke Wu-Tang's classic era. Ghost's raucous street-smart narratives are as inspired as ever over an assortment of dusty soul samples. He still manages to outdo his contemporaries with a nostalgia trip that's as raw and poised as anything he's done. **Outstanding track:** Troublemakers
CAM LINDSAY

Jamie Foxx
Album: Best Night of My Life
Label: Sony
●●½
Jamie Foxx has discovered that "martini" rhymes with "bikini" which is about as deep as it gets on the latest from the Oscar-winning movie star with the silken voice. This is Hollywood hip hop at its most familiar. It gets a tad tedious listening to Foxx tell us over and over again what a great guy he is ... as he does with the help of Justin Timberlake on the chart-targeted track, Winner (and several other tracks here). Okay, Jamie, we get the message. **Outstanding track:** Winner
GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

Keyshia Cole
Album: Calling all Hearts
Label: Universal
●●●
Keyshia Cole's latest does away with some of the more upbeat pop found on her 2008 disc, A Different Me, instead returning to the slow burning soul jams found on her earlier albums. The disc is fairly consistent — it's loaded with big, soaring hooks and songs about her family. However, while the record starts strong too many slow songs drag it down. **Outstanding track:** I Ain't Thru
BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Keri Hilson
Album: No Boys Allowed
Label: Universal
●●●
Despite the title of Keri Hilson's latest disc, the record is filled with collaborations from the boys including Timbaland and Kanye. Hilson, however, should have stuck to using her own voice. It sometimes feels like the accomplished songwriter, who only contributed her writing skills to five of 11 songs, has gone missing. **Outstanding track:** Buyou
BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Stereos
Album: Uncontrollable
Label: Universal
●½
Stereos is kiddy rock, music planned for young girls not long weaned off the Doodlebops. These season-one Disband stars sing a song called Girls in the Club for tweens still several years away from ever realistically gaining entrance to one. It's boy band music wrapped in a punk veneer. **Outstanding track:** Yeah Yeah Yeah
GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

Give to a friend at no extra cost.

metro
News worth sharing.

Gaga stalker makes it backstage

24-year-old woman reportedly already known to Gaga's team

Lady Gaga got quite a scare in London when a stalker reportedly got backstage and nearly made it to the singer, according to Hollyscoop.

"Gaga was understandably shaken by the incident but was a consummate professional and continued as per normal, putting on a dazzling show," a source says of her show at the 02 arena.

The unidentified 24-year-old apparently made a fake backstage pass to get past security and was found heading for Gaga's dressing room. She was questioned and released. METRO

▶ Lady Gaga

Clinic worker fired for discussing Lohan flap

▶ Lindsay Lohan

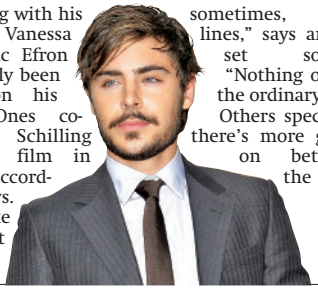
A worker at the Betty Ford Center is speaking out after being dismissed following an incident with Lindsay Lohan.

Dawn Holland tells TMZ Lohan was drunk and violent returning to her sober-living facility after curfew one night, while Lohan claims she was sober and Holland was abusive to her.

While an investigation is underway, Holland was fired from the rehab clinic for violating a confidentiality agreement when she spoke with TMZ.

"The story was already way out there in the open before I spoke," Holland says. METRO

Zac leaning on friends after split



While dealing with his split from Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron has reportedly been "leaning" on his The Lucky Ones co-star Taylor Schilling while they film in Louisiana, according to E! News.

"They joke around, eat together sometimes, run lines," says an onset source. "Nothing out of the ordinary."

Others speculate there's more going on between the two.

Meanwhile, another source suggests Efron's recently-single pal and co-star Kellan Lutz may be partially to blame for the split, as Efron recently fell in with Lutz's group of friends.

"They are a rowdy bunch, and I think that's influenced him to want to be free," the source says. METRO

News in brief

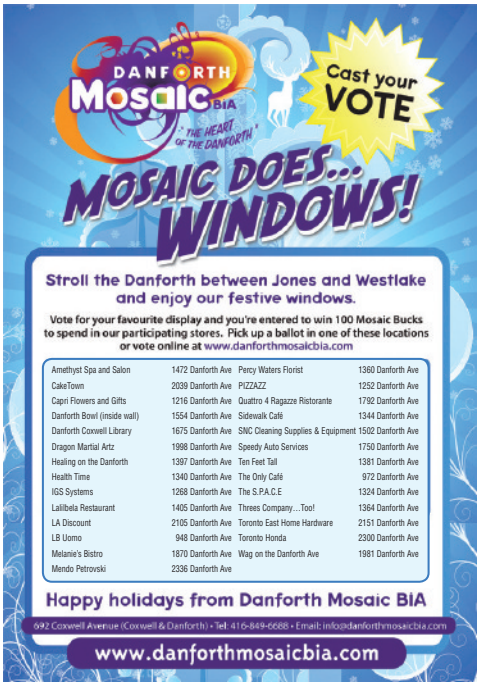
Split wasn't a huge secret

JOHANSSON-REYNOLDS. While the split between Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson may have come as a shock, Reynolds reportedly wasn't shy about discussing his marital woes while filming his next big film.

Reynolds was "open on set that he and Scarlett were having problems" and "would say that she treated him badly," a source tells Us Weekly. METRO

Keeping the magic alive

LOVE. Katy Perry says she and Russell Brand are finding the secret to keeping a happy marriage between two working celebrities is being strict about schedules — and adventurous in the bedroom. METRO



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3 life

You loved

MAD MEN STYLE

Red-carpet-friendly Badgley Mischka taps Rumer Willis as new ad model

Thank God that one's over

We polled readers from Canada to Italy to find out which trends you never want to see again in 2011 Here are the results

As the year — and technically an entire decade depending on which math you use — draws to a close, it's only natural to reflect on the past. On the fashion front, 2010 presented highs and lows.

You loved fashion's return to wearable clothes such as the Céline-fueled minimalist trend. But the invasion of jeggings? Not so much.

We polled readers in nine countries where we are published, to find out which trends you'd love to bury for good in the new year.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"I'm tired of heels so high and over-embellished that they should only be worn by drag queens."
A METRO READER

Ridiculously tall platforms heels

They may look great on the runway, in a music video or on a street style blog, but they're difficult to walk in and often hurt. Maybe that's why über tall shoes are overwhelmingly the least popular trend among Metro readers — except the Italian ones.

82% of our readers in Italy love sky-high heels.

Trucker hats

Ages ago, Pharrell Williams made them cool. Then, Ashton Kutcher made them popular. Now, they're the accessory of choice for cheeseballs everywhere —still. .

Goth style

Times are dark enough. Why dress that way too? Based on our survey results, you're ready to kill the goth look.

82% AND **80%** OF OUR CANADIAN AND U.S. READERS DEPLORE HAREM PANTS

Harem pants

Fashionistas associate dhoti trousers with Givenchy couture. But most people just think of Hammer Time. Americans and Canadians have the least tolerance for drop crotch pants.

Crocs

Let's face it. The rainbow coloured rubber clogs only *really* make sense on very small children. The Dutch, surprisingly, hate them the most.

69% of our Dutch readers would banish Crocs from the earth

46% OF OUR HUNGARIAN READERS THINK BALLET SLIPPER FLATS ARE TOTALLY LAST YEAR

Ballet slipper flats

A timeless classic or over-exposed bore? If you ask our Hungarian and Danish readers, the comfy shoes are the latter.

44% OF OUR U.S. READERS THINK UGGS ARE VILE

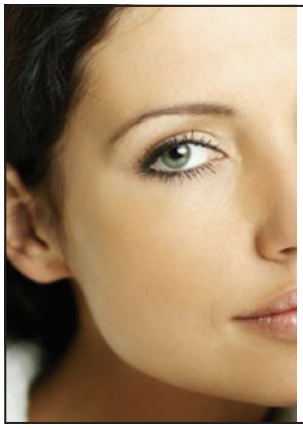
Ugg boots

They bother us for a number of reasons. At the top of our list: the irritating sliding noise they make when you walk around in them.

Leggings, weggings and jeggings

The knit, wet look and denim variety drive our French and Hungarian readers batty.

Honourable mentions: 1. Jeans with bling 2. Ed Hardy "jerk shirts" 3. Sex and the City



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KENYA HUNT
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METRO WORLD NEWS

Plant stem cells

Of all of the latest innovations in skin care, plant stem cell technology (when science attempts to recreate the regenerative process of leafy things), seems to be one of the biggest game-changers.

"We're loving some of the new stem-cell extracts," admits Dr. Fredric Brandt, who, in addition to his eponymous skincare line, is most famous for treating the famous faces of celebrities such as Madonna and Marc Jacobs.

He particularly likes apple stem cells for their ability to reduce the appearance of pores and smooth out wrinkles and grape stem cells for the way they boost hydration.

Peptides and Retinol

Dermatologists love peptides because they speed up cell turnover and smooth out lines. Meanwhile, retinol-based products help keep your skin looking healthy and supple during winter's skin-ruining weather.

"Retinol helps boost collagen production," says New York-based dermatologist Dr. Doris Day. She recommends the peptides- and retinols-packed Olay Pro-X line, which helps the skin hold in water and look younger.

Green tea and goji berries

Unless it's an ingredient in a facial scrub, you can safely assume that sugar will make your skin look worse — no matter how happy it makes you feel to eat it.

"Sugar has lots of damaging effects," Dr. Brandt says. He says sweets can cause glycation.

When sugar molecules break down collagen that leads to wrinkles, saggy skin and accelerated UV damage.

Replace the 4 p.m. candy run with green tea, which is high in antioxidants and high in skin-calming properties.

GETTY IMAGES

'Sugar has lots of damaging effects on the skin,' says Dr. Fredric Brandt.

Pores No More Mattifying Lotion and Time Arrest Crème de Luxe, drbrandtskincare.com

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THE KIT

Hedonists rejoice in this lineup of sultry scents for the sophisticated hippy-at-heart.

Prada Infusion d'Iris

A creamy floral with peppery galbanum and warm cedar. Eau de toilette, $80

Crabtree & Evelyn Iris

Orris, iris's precious root, is topped by lively bergamot and cassis, and grounded by musk and vetiver. Eau de toilette, $45

Givenchy Play for Her

A delicate veil of opposites: peppercorn with peach; sweet tiare flower with sandalwood and musk. Eau de parfum, $79

Givenchy Play for Her Intense

Play gets serious with rich accents of amyris wood, sandalwood and patchouli. Eau de parfum, $85

Estée Lauder Sensuous Noir

A woody floral with benzoin and black pepper, rose and lily. Eau de parfum, $70

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Look luxe in a tux

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tuxedos were part of Calvin Klein's spring 2011 collection.

Holiday parties are the best excuse going to wear frilly clothes, but after a while they can seem a little fussy. The wardrobe antidote is a sleek, modern, fitted tuxedo.

The man-tailored suit - usually a jacket with lapel and trousers with a tonal-fabric stripe down the leg - can be sophisticated and super-sexy. Just look at Angelina Jolie, who wears them regularly on the red carpet.

It's what you wear underneath, from the top down to the attitude, that makes a difference.

"It's what gives the woman a little tailored naughtiness," says Calvin Klein creative director Francisco Costa. "It's very sleek. It's for that kind of woman who really likes to have that spirit - easy in pants, structured shoulders. It says something about her: She's a little different than everyone else."

The woman in the tuxedo suit always stands out, Costa says, but not in the same way as a woman in a red dress, or something low-cut or sheer. "The idea of equality is bold and represents a freedom. ... I think it's provocative, but it also has power to it."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This one-bedroom suite has elements that cater to both professionals and families

Taste of the suburban

SUITE TALK

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

Simple forms and a clean, unadorned style can go a long way to empowering a modern look.

The model suite at Eleven Superior, located on the Mimico waterfront, makes contemporary design its focus with a space that feels both individual and warm without sacrificing style or cosmopolitan appeal.

Interior designer Jenny Lee aimed the one-bedroom model suite's design towards a sense of suburban sophistication with modern elements that cater to both professionals and families.

The key was keeping things basic and unpretentious to allow people's personal tastes to shine through while adding just the right kinds of accents to make the space feel inviting.

"I wanted to create something simple, modern, smart and unique by seamlessly catering to each individual lifestyle. We kept the colour palette neutral with browns and accents of blue and white — while a neutral palette is important adding a few accent pieces really warms up the space," Lee said.

White-toned quartz countertops and mocha brown laminate flooring — both standard options — and furniture with strong, simple angles all work to embolden the unadorned look.

"Nowadays people like to have that eclectic feel so we like to keep furniture in simple lines and forms to allow people to create character themselves in a space," Lee said.

Meet the condo

- **WHAT** Eleven Superior
- **BUILDER** Davies Smith Developments
- **LOCATION** Lake Shore Blvd. West and Superior Ave.
- **WEBSITE** elevensuperior.com
- **PHONE** 416-259-8882
- **SIZES & PRICING** 535 sq. ft. — 996 sq. ft. units from the low $200,000s to the $400,000s.

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3.65%	BROKER	2.10%

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▶ Note the beautiful view of the Toronto skyline.

Rooftop Surfing

STEPHEN DUPUIS
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

THE YEAR OF THE CONDO

The high-rise condominium market continued to reach new heights last month, rising 8.4 per cent over November 2009. The 2,293 new condominium suites sold represented the best November performance ever, cracking the top 10 list as well and coming in as the sixth-best month ever.

With 11 months of data in the books, the GTA new housing market is running 14 per cent ahead of 2009, with an 11 per cent decrease in low-rise sales more than offset by a whopping 47 per cent increase in high-rise sales, year-over-year.

Even more noteworthy is the fact that the 19,710 high-rise sales account for an astonishing 56 per cent of the 35,190 total units sold so far this year.

Following several months of above-average sales of condominiums in the 905 municipalities, the 80/20 rule came back into effect in November, and then some, with 82 per cent of all high-rise condo sales being recorded in the 416 area code.

As for prices, the RealNet Canada Inc. new high-rise price index currently sits at $433,165, up 12.2 per cent over November 2009, when the index was $385,986. On a per square foot basis, the RealNet index sits at $500 compared with $430 a year ago. The super-hot high-rise market reflects a number of factors including great building and suite designs, a very high level of standard finishes, superlative locations, affordable prices (relative to low-rise and especially by global standards), changing demographics, changing consumer preferences, and frankly, great marketing on the part of condo developers, all of which has contributed to making 2010 "The Year of the Condo!"

A resolution of decor

New Year's resolution: To be the perfect decorator and have the perfect home

DECOR MOMENT

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

It's nearing the end of the year and my resolutions are piling up: Lose weight, eat healthy, live a stress-less life. But my biggest resolution is to complete all the small decorating projects that have been lingering since the renovation of my house last year.

Drapes in the dining room, a new faucet in the guest bathroom and a carpet runner for the upstairs hallway are just a few. Here's a list of other forgotten decor chores that could use some updating, all of which will make me a hipper decorator, I'm sure.

UPDATING MY LOOK

It's time to re-frame a few older pieces of art; the ones with the 1970's frames are in desperate need of a facelift. A simple frame with a soft, metallic sheen (either silver or gold) can make any piece of art feel updated. I'm digging out the measuring tape, making sure that all my art is hung approximately 66 inches from the floor to the middle of the art. Lowering my artwork will actually make my ceilings look taller (great design trick) and give it new perspective.

BEING A WARMER PERSON

My dining room window desperately needs fabric and the master bedroom needs some warming up. I'm thinking of a lightweight plain wool fabric with a coloured ribbon sewn onto the inside edge and across the bottom.

Having my drapes lined in polar-fleece type fabric will give them a full body, block sun and provide great installation from the heat and cold.

▶ Glass vases can add colour trends to a room

GETTING IN SHAPE

I have a beautiful dining table but it's not the right shape for the space I've allotted for dinner parties. My space is square, therefore I need a round or square-shaped table. My fabulous oval table is overbearing in the square space and should find a new home in a longer, rectangular room. My ideal table would have a pedestal base. Corner legs tend to get in the way when squeezing extra guests at the table.

BECOMING HIP

It's time for an update ... My Barely There alabaster-coloured paint is washing itself out and my walls are crying for more umph! I'm thinking about giving into the trend of darker walls and a rich, warm grey will add drama and cool down all the neutral taupe, brown and cream that I have collected in sofas, area rugs and wood furniture. Perhaps a few new pillows, lampshades and glass vases in colours like bright yellow or purple will help keep my living room on trend without a huge investment.

What is your decorating resolution for this year? Is it to add more personality to your space, to complete the furnishings or to add a new colour to the walls? I'd love to hear about your plans and projects so please send a photo (I always love to see ugly before shots) and a short description of your decorating projects to home@metronews.ca.

Happy Decorating!

Legal Matters

JEFFREY COWAN
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

I have a power of attorney for my daughter who is residing in China. On a recent visit, we spent some time in New Brunswick and put in an offer to buy a condo. I plan on using the power of attorney to represent my daughter's interest but when I approached a New Brunswick lawyer, she stated that the Ontario power of attorney was not satisfactory. What should I do?

The lawyer is correct. For purposes of real estate transactions and generally for all financial dealings, you need a valid power of attorney in the jurisdiction in which you are doing business. Your valid Ontario power of attorney will not be recognized in any other province, just as an Ontario lawyer would not be able to utilize a power of attorney drafted and executed under the laws of, say, Manitoba.

You will therefore need to engage the New Brunswick lawyer and search for a method of signing a new power of attorney for your daughter so that you may proceed with the real estate transaction.

In the worst case scenario, your daughter may have to travel to New Brunswick and sign a new power of attorney in the presence of this particular lawyer.

Best of luck.

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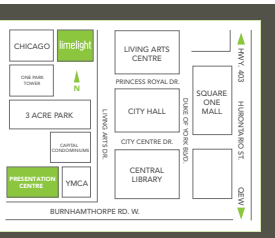

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8 reasons to visit Sky

This Annex sandwich shop is superb — and wallet-friendly

LUNCH RUSH

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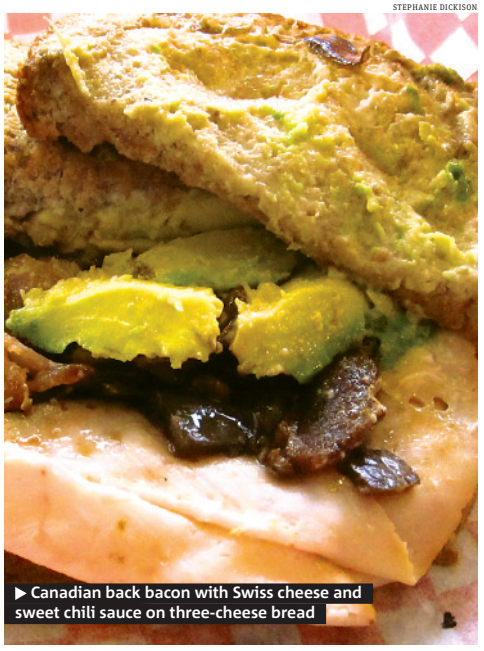
STEPHANIE DICKISON



▶ Canadian back bacon with Swiss cheese and sweet chili sauce on three-cheese bread

Here are eight reasons to visit Sky Blue Sky Sandwich:

1. It's one of the most wallet-friendly lunches around. Most sandwiches are only $4.99. And huge.

2. There are board games, books and magazines for your perusal.

3. The Chicken and Rice Flu Chaser Soup (sm $2.99/lg $3.49) enhanced with cinnamon and cayenne pepper is superb.

4. They make their own bread and source local ingredients.

5. The Kingpin ($4.99) is their best-seller. No wonder — succulent, slow roasted, pulled pork marinated in a sweet and tangy barbeque sauce.

6. A great choice for those with dietary restrictions and/or food allergies.

7. The Casino Queen ($4.99) with slices of smoked turkey topped with a balsamic onion marmalade, bacon and avocado on honey nut brown bread satisfies well beyond lunch.

8. Everything is homemade. How they do it at these prices, though, remains a mystery.

- **Sky Blue Sky Sandwich**
- **605 Bloor St. West**
- **647-351-7945**
- **sbssandwiches.com**
- **Hours: Mon to Fri 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.**
- **Rating: ****
- **Price range: $1.25 - $5.49**

Beef Tourtière

Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) ground beef
- 250 g (1/2 lb) ground pork
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) chicken broth
- 1 each minced onion and minced garlic clove
- Celery stalk, diced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each dried thyme and sage
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cloves and cinnamon
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) mashed potatoes
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh parsley, minced
- 2 frozen pie shells (each 23 cm/9 inches), thawed

Beef Tourtière Preparation:

1. In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, pan-fry ground beef, ground pork, onion and garlic. Drain. Add chicken broth, celery, thyme, sage, cloves and cinnamon; cook for 10 minutes or until no liquid remains. Remove from heat. Stir in mashed potatoes and parsley.
2. Spoon into pie shell. Top with second pie crust and cut steam vents in top crust.
3. Bake in a 200 C (400 F) oven until hot and golden brown, 35 to 45 minutes. Makes 8 servings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MTO

Quadriplegic chef pens inspirational cookbook

Cory Parsons simply won't let adversity keep him out of the kitchen.

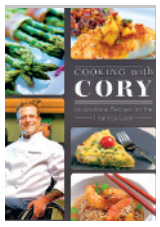
Thirteen years ago, the budding chef from Nanaimo, B.C., was severely injured in a diving accident that left him a quadriplegic.

"But somehow I wanted to get back into the food industry," says Parsons, 36.

"Obviously with the level of injury I have, carrying a box of wine in a restaurant and working 14-hour days was not possible and is not even an option."

Thirteen years ago, the idea of writing a cookbook came to him and the result is uplifting. His first cookbook, Cooking with Cory: Inspirational Recipes for the Fearless Cook (Whitecap $29.95, paperback), is "a dream come true."

As a personal trainer to others who are disabled, Parsons is a proponent of healthy, fresh and sustainable ingredients.



His book also offers tips and tools that enable the handicapped to negotiate their kitchens without fear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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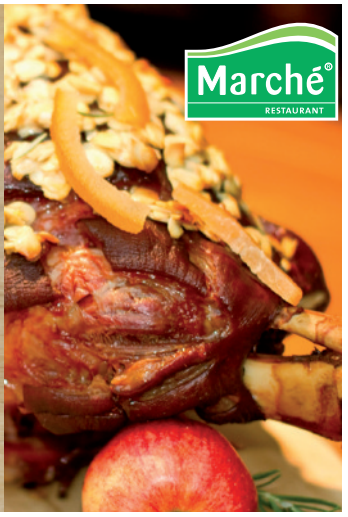

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The season to sparkle

ISTOCK

Top toys

Find out what children around the world are hoping to see under their Christmas trees this year. {page 41}

Gifts that glitter

Great gifts for that special lady in your life.
{page 42}

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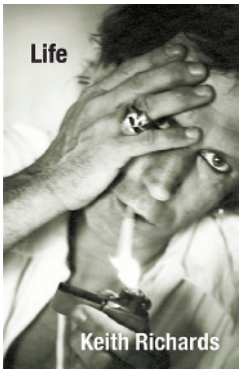
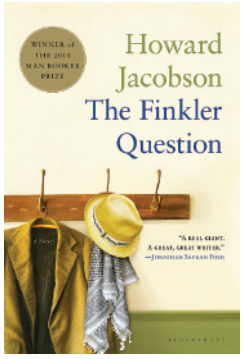
For your bookworm...





LIFE, BY KEITH RICHARDS

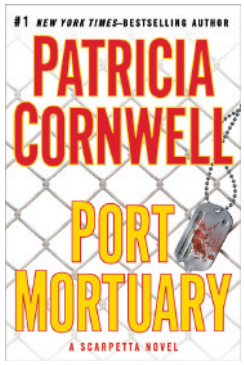
A critically-acclaimed autobiography by one of the world's best-known rock stars. $16.99 at Amazon.ca.

COAL BUST KISSES, BY WILL FERGUSON

A rich, layered Christmas memoir which spans generations, told with warmth and humour. $16 at major retailers.

THE FINKLER QUESTION, BY HOWARD JACOBSEN

A scorching story of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and of the wisdom and humanity of maturity, told with humour and poise. $18.50 at major retailers.



THE BLYTHES ARE QUOTED, BY L.M. MONTGOMERY

The last, previously-unpublished work of fiction by the author of Anne of Green Gables contains 15 short stories dealing with darker themes of adultery, revenge, murder and death. $14 at major retailers.

THE SHERLOCKIAN, BY GRAHAM MOORE

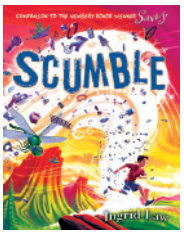
A detective-story-within-a-detective-story that delves into the history of Sherlock Holmes and his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. $32 at major retailers.

PORT MORTUARY, BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

The eighteenth novel in Patricia Cornwell's popular forensic science series sees heroine Kay Scarpetta embroiled in a case that could ruin her professional career and personal life. $32.50 at major retailers.

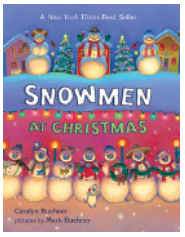
RAF BRUSILOW

For the kids



Scumble by Ingrid Law

A fast-paced adventure in the legendary Wild West filled with Ingrid Law's signature heart and humour. $21 at major retailers



Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn Buehner

The book offers a funny look at what snowmen do when Christmas arrives. $8.50 board book, $24 hardback at major retailers.

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Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett revisit the swashbuckling classic. Blu-Ray + DVD disc + digital copy, $29.99 at major retailers.

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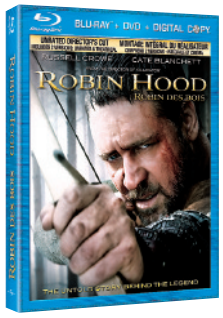
Matt Damon reunites with Bourne Ultimatum director Paul Greengrass. Blu-Ray + digital copy, $32.99 at major retailers.

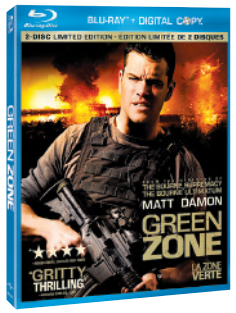
DEVIL

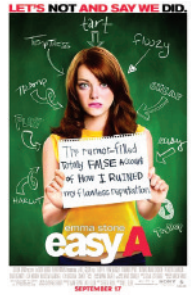
Five people are trapped in an elevator in this tension-filled supernatural thriller. Blu-Ray, $29.99 at major retailers

EASY A

Funny teen romp about a girl and how a few little white lies turn her life into a modern-day version of the Scarlett Letter. $19.99 on iTunes.







Top toys around the world

What's the most popular gift for young ones, and the young-at-heart? We asked local retailers in 14 different countries. Some have real Buzz.

UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, SPAIN

JET PACK BUZZ LIGHTYEAR

Why popular: Sorry Dad, he doesn't actually fly, but the jetpack makes whirring sounds, and the laser is movie-accurate. Plus: He says things from "Toy Story 3."
(SOURCE: TOYS R US; BRITAIN'S TOY RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; JUGUETERIA FANTASIA)

HOLLAND

MINI-KITCHEN BY MIELE

Why popular: This toy oven has more features than your own, and plays music, too.
(SOURCE: BART SMIT)

SWEDEN, ITALY, FRANCE

PAPER JAMZ ELECTRIC GUITAR

Why popular: Black Sabbath. Judas Priest. Lady Gaga. Kids can play anything on this paper-thin, battery-operated guitar.
(SOURCE: METRO SWEDEN; LITTLE BIG TOWN; GRAND PRIX DU JOUET)

CANADA

BARBIE VIDEO GIRL WITH BUILT-IN VIDEO CAMERA

Why popular: You can record up to 30 minutes of movie, via a camera hidden in Barbie's chest. Very cool but a little creepy.
(SOURCE: CANADIAN TOY ASSOCIATION; ONE OF 108 HOT TOYS)

MEXICO

DINO VALLEY TOY SETS

Why popular: Kids can act out "Jurassic Park" in the safety of their own home.
(SOURCE: MERCERIA DEL REFUGIO)

BRAZIL

LIV DOLLS

Why popular: Barbie is a nerd compared to these fashionistas, who shop, skateboard and rock out after getting their nails done.
(SOURCE; RIHAPPY)

SOUTH AFRICA

OREGON SMARTGLOBE

Why popular: Touch the pen to any country and you'll hear interesting facts, updatable online.
(SOURCE: REGGIE'S)

AUSTRALIA

BEYBLADE METAL FUSION BATTLE TOP

Why popular: String a ripcord through the top and these discs spin around, knock one another off the table.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US AUSTRALIA)

HONG KONG

BANDAI BEN 10 LEGACY OMNITRIX

Why popular: The "Ben 10" anime series follows a kid who wears an Omnitrix, the ultimate weapon, on his wrist.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US HONG KONG)

RUSSIA

WELLY DIE-CAST TOY CARS

Why popular: Do you have to ask? Everyone wants a Lamborghini.
(SOURCE: DETSKY MIR)

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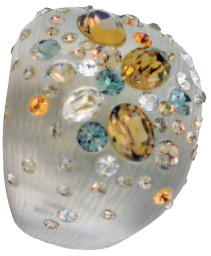
Gifts that glitter

1

2

3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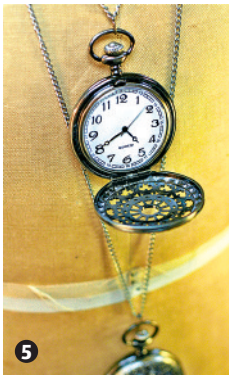
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8

1 CALVIN KLEIN GLINT BRACELET, $150
A kiss on the wrist can be quite continental. The Bay.

2 GISELE NECKLACE, $200 WITH MATCHING EARRINGS
We must admit this elegant crimson-coloured stunner is high on our wish list. Swarovski.

3 CHUNKY NECKLACE, $29.95
Balance the delicate with this funky, chunky bead-and-rope combo. H&M.

4 ALEXIS BITTAR RING, $240
You will have a hard time finding a woman who doesn't go gaga over the New York-based artist's Lucite designs. In other words, it's a foolproof gift. Available through ekojewellery.com.

5 KURVE CLOCK NECKLACE, $28
We know. We're missing Flava Flav, too. Keep his memory alive with this lovely and functional charm necklace. Available thorugh kurvejewellery.com

6 TIFFANY SNOWMAN CHARM, $240
An adorable snowperson. Charmed, she's sure to be. Tiffany.

7 KNOT CHAIN EARRINGS, $58
Pick up a pair of these delightful danglies next time you pop in for a new party dress. French Connection.

8 NICOLE TEOTONIO FEATHERED NECKPIECE, $70
Nothing says dramatic like a large feathered neckpiece. Make that holiday party entrance like the diva you are. Available through kurvejewellery.com.

JORDANA DIVON

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Stuff for all your men

Hair, face and body care gifts for the fellas from Janine Falcon

1

La Mer The Lip Balm, $58
Sure this lightly minty smoothing and softening protective balm is a splurge. Think of it as an investment in kissing. If you like that sort of thing.
Holt Renfrew

2

Crabtree & Evelyn Nomad Hair & Body Wash, $20
He doesn't have to be a world traveller to appreciate the exotic sandalwood, ginger, citron and green bamboo notes in this energizing multi-tasker.
crabtreeniagara.ca

3

Origins Express Male Face Kit, $40
Blade Runner shave cream gives glide with natural oils; Fire Fighter calms with chamomile and cucumber; and Save the Males offers antioxidant hydration.
Select Bay stores.

4

Badger Muscle Rub, $18.35 (includes natural balm stick, not shown)
This natural balm preps muscles and joints for activity and soothes them afterward with cayenne pepper extract, and ginger, cardamom, rosemary and lemongrass oils. **Well.ca.**

5

John Varvatos 10th Anniversary Special Edition Fragrance, $97
With warm patchouli, amber and woody notes, this scent by menswear designer John Varvatos brings sexy back to the bureau as well as the man. **Department stores; Murale.**

6

Redken for Men 2 in 1 Clean Spice Conditioning Shampoo, $13.79
This morning pick-me-up wakes up the scalp and the senses as well as boosts hair manageability.
redken.ca for salons.

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Union Station - Hillcrest Mall

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The tipping point

Tip postie, dog walker, hairdresser with vino — especially chosen

That's the suggestion of noted Canadian wine writer, speaker and judge Natalie MacLean, who is no slouch at choosing the right vino to fit the recipient's personality.

"I wanted to find a way to approach wine that is fun, takes the snobbery out of it and gives drinkers more confidence," she said in an interview.

"Once I had the notion about all those people who we tip, or unusual people who provide service all year around, 'I thought, let's say thank you with a bottle of wine.'"

MacLean says that wine "is a little different than a monetary tip or a gift like candles and soap, which I am sure everyone is tired of."

If a large bottle of wine seems daunting, most liquor stores and wine outlets have half-sized bottles of everything from red and white to sparkling wines which she suggests pairing with a corkscrew or wine book.

It's always wise to make sure the gift is something the recipient will appreciate and that the person isn't an abstainer for religious or health reasons.

Here, from her recent blog, are several wine suggestions for those who serve you faithfully.

Hairdresser: For the person who combines humour and optimism, go for a light gulpable wine like a dry rosé.

Mail deliverer: Choose a winery that is consistent year after year in producing a tipple that can be enjoyed in snow, rain, sleet or hail. Try an Australian Shiraz or Argentine Malbec.

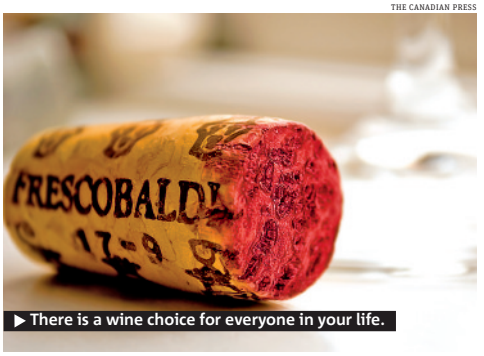
Personal trainer: Think a muscular, robust red would work? Hold that position. Instead, try Riesling as this light white wine pairs well with a healthnut diet of salad and seafood, plus it is low in alcohol.

Financial planner: Sticking to a long-term view, vintage port makes the perfect gift.

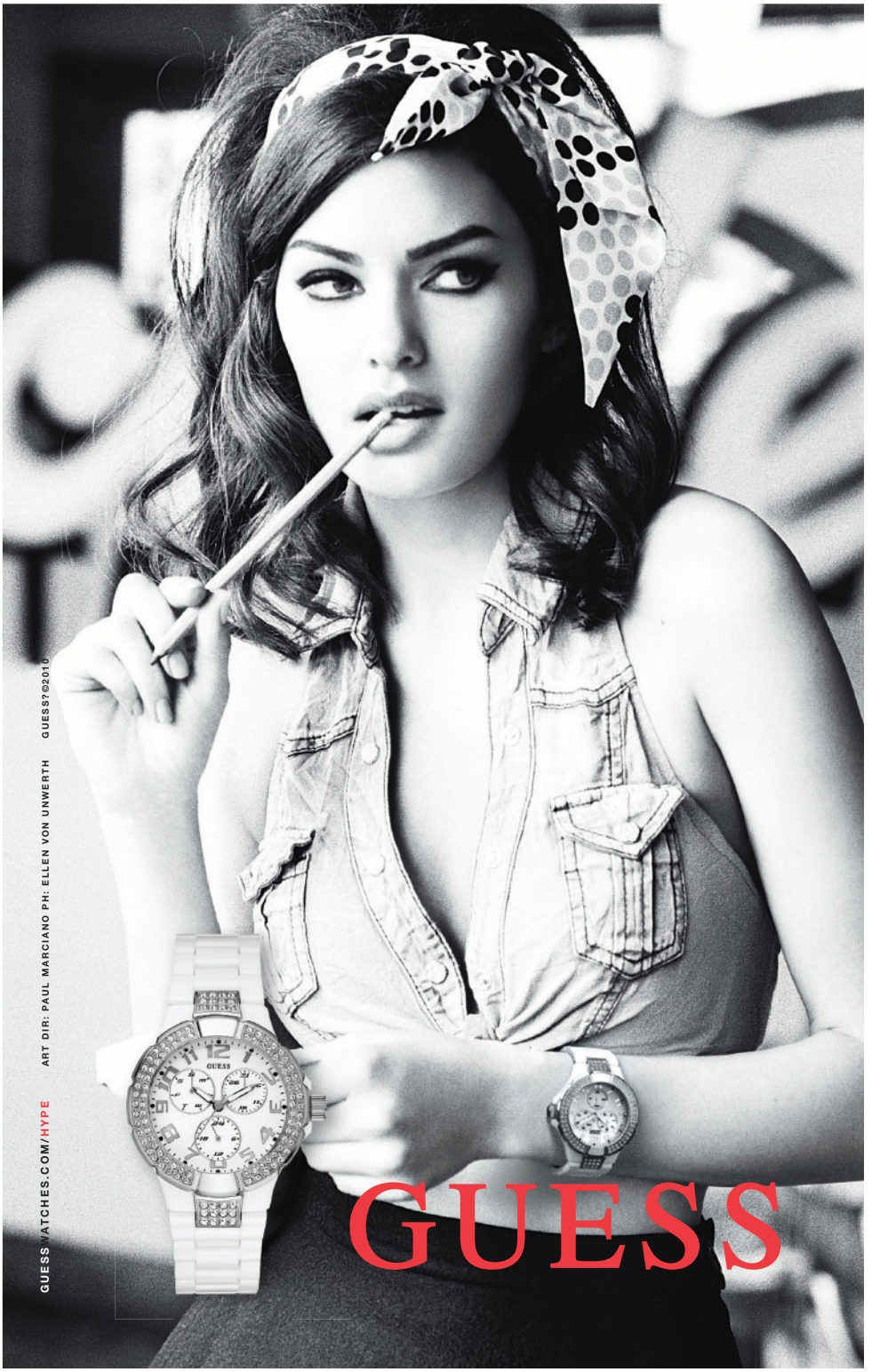
"This fortified wine from northern Portugal with its long aging potential will be around for both of you into your retirements."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ There is a wine choice for everyone in your life.



4 sports

Quoted

"I understand I'm going to get asked this question frontways, sideways, backways, and all this, but it is a personal matter."

NEW YORK JETS COACH REX RYAN, ON A REPORT POSTED BY THE SPORTS WEBSITE DEADSPIN THAT SHOWS FOUR FOOT-FETISH VIDEOS OF A WOMAN WHO BEARS A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO RYAN'S WIFE, MICHELLE.

"Foot fetish? Whatever. I mean, that's his wife. At the end of the day, that's his wife and he can do whatever he wants with his wife. It's not like he's out committing adultery or anything negative."

JETS CORNERBACK DARRELLE REVIS

Scan code for more sports

NHL demotion has silver lining

Being sent back to the WHL lets Schenn play for Canada's juniors

Brayden Schenn played just more than eight minutes for the Los Angeles Kings in a 3-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Oct. 30, and then he sat, and sat, and sat.

For the better part of a month, the talented 19-year-old centre from Saskatoon was left idle, trying unsuccessfully not to think too much about his situation. With eight games under his belt, Schenn was approaching the 10-game threshold that would activate a year of his NHL contract and all but assure he wouldn't return to junior this season.

So he sat, contemplating the uncertainty. Would he stay in the NHL? Would he be sent back to the Brandon Wheat Kings of the Western Hockey League? Would he play again for Canada at the world junior hockey championship? He didn't have a clue about what was going to happen.

"I didn't get told anything," the baby-faced Schenn said in a recent interview. "Three weeks, up until I got sent to Manchester (of the American Hockey League on Nov. 17 for a conditioning stint), came back from Manchester and I didn't really get told anything. I'm sure they were unsure what they were going to do with me ...

"Everything is going through your head when you're not playing and you're sitting there in the hotel ... A lot goes through your mind."

"They're calling the Americans the favourite, that's fine by us."

BRAYDEN SCHENN

Some closure finally came Dec. 3, two days after Schenn returned to the Kings from his two-week stint with the AHL Monarchs, when he was sent back to Brandon. Disappointed over the demotion, the silver lining was that he would be able to rejoin the national junior team and help try to avenge last January's loss in the gold-medal final to the Americans.

Still, it took the fifth overall pick in the 2009 draft a while to get over the sting of being returned to the WHL and having to put off his NHL dream for another year.

"I'll agree with them, maybe it was the right decision. I guess I'll find out in the future," said Schenn, the younger brother of Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Luke Schenn. "You can't argue with L.A. there. They've produced a lot of good players, they hold my future and they're going to do what's best for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Brayden Schenn celebrates with goalie Olivier Roy on Tuesday.

Raps' gift to Pistons: End to losing streak

115	93
PISTONS	RAPTORS

Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 35 points, Rodney Stuckey had 21 and the Detroit Pistons beat Toronto 115-93 last night, snapping a five-game losing streak against the Raptors.

The Pistons fell one point shy of matching a season high and ended an eight-game road skid, winning away from home for the first time since Nov. 14 at Sacramento.

The Raptors trailed by 25 points in the third quarter of a Dec. 11 game at Detroit, but rallied to win 120-116 for the biggest comeback in team history.

There was no such rally in this one. Detroit led by 32 and easily sent the shorthanded Raptors to their eighth loss in 10 games.

Leandro Barbosa scored 21 points, Linas Kleiza had 19 and Andrea Bargnani 16 for Toronto. DeMar DeRozan and Ed Davis each scored 10 points and Jose Calderon had 13 assists for Toronto, the third straight time he's reached double digits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

Anthony out for game

NBA. Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony missed last night's game against the San Antonio Spurs following a death in his family.

Nuggets coach George Karl said he didn't want to predict when Anthony might return to the team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newton is AP's top player

FOOTBALL. Cam Newton is reaping the rewards for helping top-ranked Auburn vault to the U.S. college football championship game from the back of the top 25. The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback has added AP Player of the Year to his collection of honours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LISA BLUMENFELD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Cavs and the Lakers played each other last Christmas.

Visions of a day off dancing in their heads

LeBron agrees with Phil Jackson's wish for no NBA games on Christmas

Phil Jackson and LeBron James agree: Christmas Day games are not the ideal holiday gift.

A day after the Lakers' coach reiterated his long-time stance against NBA games Dec. 25, James and other members of the Miami Heat said they also wish they could be with their families on Christmas.

Instead, the Lakers and Heat will spend the holiday together, playing in Los Angeles Saturday afternoon.

"If you ask any player in the league, we'd rather be home with our families," James said. "I think the people that even set the games up would rather be home with their family during this day. It's not just a regular holiday.

"It's definitely one of those days that you wish you could wake up in the morning with the kids and open up presents."

James' two children will unwrap their gifts on Christmas Eve this year.

Jackson is the son of two Christian ministers, and he famously wrote a book on his spiritual growth related to basketball.

The Lakers have been picked for a Christmas game annually since 1999.

"I don't think anybody should play on Christmas Day," Jackson said Tuesday night before the Lakers lost at home to Milwaukee. "I don't understand it."

Keeping with the theme from recent years, the NBA went with five games again on Christmas. Chicago is at New York to open the five-pack of games, Boston plays next at Orlando, then after the Lakers host the Heat it will be Denver at Oklahoma City and Portland at Golden State in the nightcap.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Fairview Mall
Fairview Park Mall
Georgian Mall
Heritage Place
Hillcrest Mall
Lambton Mall
Lansdowne Place
Lime Ridge Mall
Lynden Park Mall
Mapleview Shopping Centre
Markville Shopping Centre
Masonville Place
New Sudbury Centre
Northgate Shopping Centre
Oakville Place
Oshawa Centre
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Station Mall
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The Promenade
Toronto Eaton Centre
Union Station
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
White Oaks Mall
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	35	22	8	2	3	117	87	49	12-6-0-2	10-2-2-1	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Washington	36	20	12	2	2	109	100	44	13-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W2
d-Montreal	34	19	13	2	0	89	77	40	12-5-2-0	7-8-0-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	35	23	10	2	0	115	81	48	12-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Tampa Bay	34	19	10	3	2	105	111	43	10-2-1-1	9-8-2-1	7-1-1-1	L1
Atlanta	36	19	12	1	4	117	104	43	10-7-0-2	9-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Boston	32	17	11	1	3	89	68	38	8-6-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Carolina	32	15	13	0	4	90	99	34	7-5-0-1	8-8-0-3	4-3-0-3	L1
Buffalo	34	14	16	4	0	89	97	32	8-9-1-0	6-7-3-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Ottawa	35	14	17	3	1	81	106	32	8-9-1-1	5-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Florida	32	15	17	0	0	87	83	30	7-6-0-0	8-11-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	12	17	2	2	75	102	28	8-7-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	31	7	18	3	3	67	105	20	5-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	3-6-0-1	W1
New Jersey	33	9	22	1	1	59	103	20	5-8-1-1	4-14-0-0	2-8-0-0	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	33	21	8	3	1	110	92	46	13-4-2-1	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	W1
d-Dallas	34	21	10	1	2	100	92	45	12-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W3
d-Vancouver	32	19	8	3	2	105	83	43	11-3-1-1	8-5-2-1	6-2-2-0	L1
Colorado	34	19	11	4	0	121	110	42	10-5-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-2-2-0	L1
San Jose	34	18	11	4	1	102	95	41	9-4-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Chicago	36	19	14	2	1	115	104	41	11-9-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W3
Nashville	33	17	10	4	2	84	83	40	8-2-3-2	9-8-1-0	7-2-1-0	L2
Anaheim	38	18	16	2	2	98	111	40	11-6-0-1	7-10-2-1	5-4-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	32	19	12	1	0	95	75	39	11-2-1-0	8-10-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Phoenix	32	15	10	4	3	89	93	37	6-4-2-2	9-6-2-1	4-4-0-2	L1
Columbus	33	17	13	2	1	85	91	37	9-8-0-1	8-5-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
St. Louis	33	16	12	2	3	86	93	37	10-4-0-2	6-8-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Minnesota	32	15	13	1	3	79	91	34	8-7-0-2	7-6-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Calgary	35	14	18	1	2	92	103	31	9-7-0-0	5-11-1-2	4-5-0-1	L3
Edmonton	32	12	15	1	4	85	110	29	6-8-1-1	6-7-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
N.Y. Islanders 2 Tampa Bay 1 (OT)
Pittsburgh 5 Florida 2
Detroit 5 Vancouver 4 (OT)
Chicago 4 Nashville 1
Tuesday's results
Columbus 3 Calgary 1
Dallas 5 Montreal 2
San Jose 2 Edmonton 1
Buffalo 5 Anaheim 2
Los Angeles 5 Colorado 0
St. Louis 4 Atlanta 2
Washington 5 New Jersey 1
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Atlanta at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Detroit at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow-Saturday
No Games Scheduled.

RED WINGS 5, CANUCKS 4 (OT)

First Period
1. Detroit, Cleary 15 (Bertuzzi, Rafalski) 8:12
Penalties — None.
Second Period
2. Vancouver, H.Sedin 7 (Kesler, D.Sedin) 1:11 (pp)
3. Detroit, V.Filppula 8 (Cleary, Ericsson) 6:29
4. Vancouver, D.Sedin 17 (Kesler, Ehrhoff) 11:21 (pp)
5. Vancouver, Samuelsson 7 (H.Sedin) 19:39
Penalties — Rafalski Det (cross-checking) 0:56, Bieksa Vcr (interference) 1:35, Holmstrom Det (high-sticking) 2:56, Samuelsson Vcr (interference) 6:57, V.Filppula Det (closing hand on puck) 10:33.
Third Period
6. Detroit, Zetterberg 11 (Kronwall, Salei) 1:54
7. Vancouver, Tambellini 7 (Kesler) 12:10
8. Detroit, Lidstrom 8 (Zetterberg, Rafalski) 16:06 (pp)
Penalties — Edler Vcr (high-sticking) 5:30, Burrows Vcr (cross-checking) 15:09.
Overtime
9. Detroit, Zetterberg 12 (Rafalski, Helm) 2:59
Penalties — None.
Shots

Vancouver	17	13	8	1—39
Detroit	14	11	19	1—45

Goal — Vancouver: Luongo (L,16-8-3); Detroit: Howard (W,18-6-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 2-3; Detroit: 1-4.
Referees — Chris Rooney, Don Van Massenhoven. **Linesmen** — Greg Devorski, Steve Miller.
Att. — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

LATE TUESDAY

SHARKS 2, OILERS 1

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Stortini Edm (goaltender interference) 3:18.
Second Period
1. San Jose, Couture 18 (Clowe) 13:15
2. San Jose, Boyle 4 (Marleau, Thornton) 16:43 (pp)
Penalties — Gilbert Edm (holding) 0:26, Wallin SJ (interference) 7:19, Nichol SJ (hooking) 8:07, Hall Edm (holding) 9:25, Whitney Edm (holding stick) 14:48.
Third Period
3. Edmonton, Penner 11 (Whitney, Hall) 18:01
Penalties — None.
Shots

Edmonton	5	9	13	—27
San Jose	5	17	8	—30

Goal — Edmonton: Khabibulin (L,8-12-2); San Jose: Niittymaki (W,12-3-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 0-2; San Jose: 1-4.
Referees — Gord Dwyer, Dennis LaRue. **Linesmen** — Lonnie Cameron, Brad Lazarowich.
Att. — 17,562 (17,562) at San Jose.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	27	30	57
Stamkos, TB	26	21	47
St. Louis, TB	13	30	43
Perry, Ana	19	22	41
B.Richards, Dal	16	23	39
Datsyuk, Det	12	27	39
Ovechkin, Wash	12	27	39
D.Sedin, Vcr	16	22	38
H.Sedin, Vcr	6	31	37
Eriksson, Dal	15	21	36
Getzlaf, Ana	13	23	36
Byfuglien, Atl	12	24	36
Roy, Buf	10	25	35
Sharp, Chi	18	16	34
Kopitar, LA	14	20	34
Duchene, Col	13	21	34
Backstrom, Wash	11	23	34

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	23	4	.852	—
d-Miami	21	9	.700	3½
d-Chicago	18	9	.667	5
Atlanta	19	12	.613	6
New York	17	12	.586	7
Orlando	16	12	.571	7½
Indiana	13	14	.481	10
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	12
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	13
Detroit	10	19	.345	14
Toronto	10	19	.345	14
Charlotte	9	19	.321	14½
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15½
Cleveland	8	21	.276	16
Washington	7	20	.259	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	25	3	.893	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	2
d-L.A. Lakers	21	8	.724	4½
d-Utah	21	9	.700	5
Oklahoma City	20	10	.667	6
Denver	16	11	.593	8½
New Orleans	17	12	.586	8½
Portland	15	14	.517	10½
Phoenix	13	14	.481	11½
Houston	13	15	.464	12
Memphis	12	17	.414	13½
Golden State	10	18	.357	15
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.276	17½
Minnesota	6	24	.200	20
Sacramento	5	21	.192	19

d — division leader
Last night's results
Atlanta 98 Cleveland 84
Detroit 115 Toronto 93
Chicago 87 Washington 80
Boston 84 Philadelphia 80
New York 112 Oklahoma City 98
Utah 112 Minnesota 107
New Orleans 105 New Jersey 91
San Antonio 109 Denver 103
Houston at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday's results
Oklahoma City 99 Charlotte 81
Dallas 105 Orlando 99
Chicago 121 Philadelphia 76
New Jersey 101 Memphis 94
Golden State 117 Sacramento 109 (OT)
Milwaukee 98 L.A. Lakers 79
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

PISTONS 115, RAPTORS 993

DETROIT (115)
Prince 3-9 0-0 6, Villanueva 8-15 2-2 18, Wallace 1-2 2-4 4, Stuckey 9-15 3-3 21, Gordon 1-7 2-2 4, Monroe 2-3 3-3 7, McGrady 8-12 0-0 17, Hamilton 13-20 3-5 35, Maxiell 0-2 0-0 0, Bynum 1-1 0-0 3, Daye 0-4 0-0 0, Wilcox 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 46-90 15-19 115.
TORONTO (93)
Kleiza 7-11 4-4 19, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Bargnani 6-17 4-7 16, Calderon 1-6 2-2 5, DeRozan 4-7 2-2 10, Davis 4-5 2-3 10, Barbosa 7-12 4-5 21, Wright 3-4 0-0 6, Dorsey 2-2 0-0 4, Alabi 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-67 18-23 93.

Detroit	24	38	24	29	—115
Toronto	23	21	24	25	—93

3-Point Goals—Detroit 8-23 (Hamilton 6-10, Bynum 1-1, McGrady 1-2, Prince 0-1, Villanueva 0-2, Daye 0-2, Gordon 0-2, Stuckey 0-3), Toronto 5-14 (Barbosa 3-6, Kleiza 1-3, Calderon 1-4, Bargnani 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 44 (McGrady 7), Toronto 41 (Wright 6). Assists—Detroit 27 (McGrady 7), Toronto 26 (Calderon 13). Total Fouls—Detroit 18, Toronto 15. Technicals—Toronto defensive three second 2. A—15,303 (19,800) at Toronto.

LEAGUE LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	25	221	210	690	27.6
Stoudemire, NYK	28	281	174	742	26.5
Bryant, LAL	29	255	194	745	25.7
Ellis, GOL	28	272	129	716	25.6
Nowitzki, DAL	28	256	149	687	24.5
James, MIA	30	244	203	729	24.3

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Named Arnie Beyeler manager of Pawtucket (IL), Kevin Boles manager of Portland (EL), Bruce Crabbe manager, Kevin Walker pitching coach and Alex Ochoa hitting coach for Salem (Carolina), Dick Such pitching coach at Greenville (SAL), Carlos Febles manager and Paul Abbott pitching coach for Lowell (N.Y.-Penn), George Lombard manager and dave Tomlin pitching coach for Gulf Coast Red Sox.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Assigned INF Joaquin Arias and INF Lance Zawadzki outright to Omaha (AAA).
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Named Dave Eiland as a special assistant.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with LHP Gustavo Chacin on a minor-league contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Sean Green and INF Craig Counsell on one-year contracts.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Designated RHP Joe Martinez for assignment. Named Dean Treanor manager of Indianapolis (IL), P.J. Forbes manager of Altoona (EL), Carlos Garcia of Bradenton (FSL), Gary Robinson manager of West Virginia (SAL), Dave Turgeon manager and Justin Meccage pitching coach for State College (NY-Penn), Brad Fischer advisor-player development, Frank Kremblas coordinator of instruction, Jeff Livesey hitting coordinator, Gary Green infield coordinator, Luis Dorante, Latin America field coordinator and Scott Mitchell assistant pitching coordinator.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Named John Abbamondi vice president of strategy and business analysis.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Assigned LHP Matt Chico outright to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL

NBA

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Announced the resignation of coach Larry Brown.
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed F Ike Diogu.

FOOTBALL

NFL

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Placed WR Early Doucet on injured reserve. Signed LB Curtis Gatewood from the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS—Signed DB Brett Johnson to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Signed FB Rashawn Jackson from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS—Claimed TE Garrett Mills off waivers from Philadelphia.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed TE Evan Moore on injured reserve.
DENVER BRONCOS—Placed FB Spencer Larsen on injured reserve. Signed G Stanley Daniels.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed G Adrian Battles and S Michael Greco to practice squad. Placed WR Terrance Smith on practice squad-injured reserve.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Placed WR Austin Collie on injured reserve.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed QB Rhett Bomar from the New York Giants practice squad. Waived QB R.J. Archer.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DL Landon Cohen. Released DL Louis Leonard.
SEATTLE SEHAWKS—Signed LB Michael Johnson from the Kansas City the practice squad. Signed LB Vuna Tuihalamaka to the practice squad. Placed DE Derek Walker on practice squad-injured reserve.
ST. LOUIS RAMS—Promoted LB Curtis Johnson from the practice squad. Signed WR Joe West to practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed DL Ma'ake Kemoeatu and DL Phillip Daniels on injured reserve. Signed LB Rob Jackson from the practice squad. Signed DL Darrion Scott. Signed DL Rashaad Duncan and OT Xavier Fulton to the practice squad. Released OT Jacob Bender from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Reassigned LW Josh Green to Syracuse (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled F Josh Bailey from Bridgeport (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled F Mats Zuccarello from Connecticut (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled LW Mikkel Boedker from San Antonio (AHL). Placed LW Taylor Pyatt on injured reserve.

SOCCER

MLS

D.C. UNITED—Signed MF Andy Najar to a multiyear contract.
PHILADELPHIA UNION—Signed MF Zach Pfeffer.

SOCCER

GERMAY

GERMAN CUP

ROUND OF 16
First Leg
Yesterday's results
Stuttgart 3 Bayern Munich 6
Alemannia Aachen 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Aachen wins 5-3 on penalties)
Wolfsburg 1 Energie Cottbus 3
Cologne 1 Duisburg 2

SPAIN

COPA DEL RAY

ROUND OF 16
First Leg
Yesterday's results
Real Betis 1 Getafe 2
Atletico Madrid 1 Espanyol 0
Sevilla 5 Malaga 3
Almeria 4 Mallorca 3
Real Madrid 8 Levante 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's results
Arles 0 Nice 0
Brest 0 Marseille 0
Caen 1 Rennes 0
Lille 1 Saint-Etienne 1
Lyon 1 Auxerre 1
Monaco 2 Sochaux 1
Nancy 2 Paris Saint-Germain 0
Valenciennes 2 Toulouse 1
Bordeaux 2 Lens 2

HOCKEY

IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Buffalo and Lewiston, N.Y.
All times Eastern

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Sunday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Germany vs. Switzerland, 12:30 p.m.
Russia vs. **Canada**, 4 p.m.
Finland vs. U.S., 8 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Norway vs. Sweden, 4 p.m.
Monday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Slovakia vs. Germany, 7 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Czech Republic vs. Norway, 7 p.m.
Tuesday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Switzerland vs. Finland, 12:30 p.m.
Canada vs. Czech Republic, 4 p.m.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 8 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Sweden vs. Russia, 7 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353
SOUTH						
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386
NORTH						
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	307	220
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362
WEST						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	354	396
SOUTH						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	183	350
NORTH						
y-Chicago	10	4	0	.714	293	242
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244	314
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329
WEST						
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	255	370

x — clinched playoff berth.
y — clinched division.
Tonight's game
All times Eastern
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's game
Dallas at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Tennessee at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 1 p.m.
Washington at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
San Diego at Cincinnati, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

U.S. COLLEGE BOWLS

Subject to Change
All Times Eastern
Last night's result
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Utah (10-2) vs. Boise State (11-1)
Tuesday's result
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Louisville 31 Southern Mississippi 28
Tonight's game
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego, Calif.
San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.

MLB

Drunk driver sentenced in Angel's death

A construction worker who was on probation for felony drunken driving when he ran a red light and killed rookie Los Angeles Angels pitcher Nick Adenhart and two other people was sentenced yesterday to 51 years to life in prison.

A judge sentenced Andrew Gallo, 24, amid sobbing from the victims' family and friends who earlier heard him apologize for the 2009 crash.

Prosecutors said Gallo's blood-alcohol level was nearly three times the legal limit when he blew through a red light at an Orange County intersection on April 9, 2009, and T-boned the car carrying Adenhart and three friends.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobcats hire Silas for interim

The Charlotte Bobcats have announced that Paul Silas will take over for Larry Brown on an interim basis.

Owner Michael Jordan announced Brown's departure in a release yesterday, a day after the Bobcats were outscored 31-12 in the fourth quarter in their fourth straight loss.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colts lose Collie to concussion

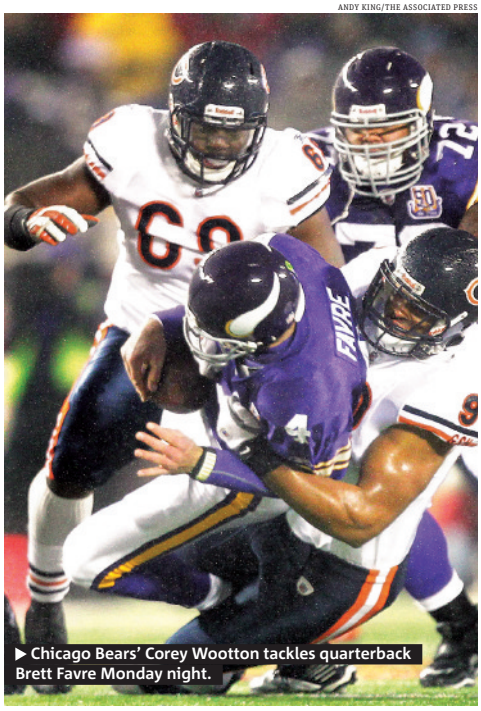
Indianapolis Colts receiver Austin Collie is done for the season after he suffered a concussion Sunday against Jacksonville.

Collie was placed on injured reserve yesterday. Collie leads all Indy receivers this season with eight touchdown catches, is second in receptions (58) and third in yards (649).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Favre still has a spot this season if healthy

ANDY KING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Chicago Bears' Corey Wootton tackles quarterback Brett Favre Monday night.

For now, Minnesota is preparing rookie Joe Webb to start

As the Minnesota Vikings have been reminded this season, ruling Brett Favre out is never easy.

He managed to make it in Monday night's game after the final injury report declared him out, let alone all the other weeks just this year when his status was unclear until the final hours.

That's why Vikings interim coach Leslie Frazier is still holding a spot in the starting lineup for the 41-year-old, soon-to-be-retired quarterback in case he recovers quickly from the concussion that knocked him out of the game against the Bears.

"It will just be a day-to-day situation," Frazier said.

"If he gets cleared by our doctors then things will change, but until he's cleared there isn't much that can be done other than whatever the doctors recommend."

"When it comes to (Favre), you should expect everything."

TIGHT END VISANTHE SHIANCOE

Teammate Ryan Longwell joked that Favre called him "Brian" when they spoke yesterday.

"Certainly when you get your head bounced off a hard surface like that it's no fun, but he's doing all right," Longwell said. "We chuckled about a few things."

As required by the NFL, Favre will undergo daily post-concussion testing until he proves he can play without symptoms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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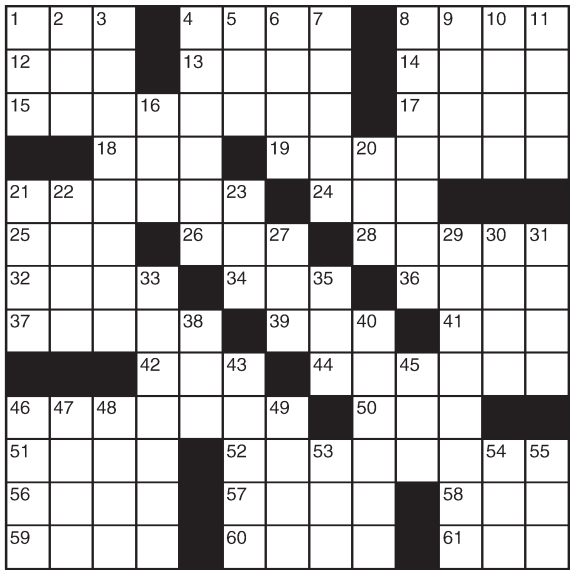
Crossword



Across

1 Jungfrau, for one
4 Docket entry
8 White spread
12 Vast expanse
13 Awestruck
14 Pinnacle
15 Fence for defense
17 Anatomical network
18 See 6-Down
19 Ache aid
21 Pluto, once
24 Historic boy king
25 Tease
26 Tear
28 Re Benedict XVI
32 Earthenware pot
34 Promptly
36 Tibetan monk
37 Commemorative pillar
39 Homer's interjection
41 Parcel of land
42 Winter ailment
44 Put the — on (stop)
46 Ocean motion
50 Toast topping
51 Curved moulding
52 One of Rome's seven hills
56 Evidenced a pinprick
57 Sweeping story
58 "Platoon" setting, for short
59 Missile shelter
60 Dweeb
61 Chances, for short

Down

1 Venomous viper
2 Meadow
3 Easily perceived
4 Friendly ghost
5 — Khan
6 With 18-Across, carbonated drink
7 Spew out
8 Wedlock-related
9 Unoriginal one
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 The yoke's on them
16 Accelerator bit
20 Young seal
21 Experts
22 Springlike melody
23 Stannum
27 Spacecraft compartment
29 Cream-coloured horse
30 Andy's pal
31 Strip of wood
33 Fettuccine sauce
35 Moo goo gai pan pan
38 Hearty brew
40 Commandeer
43 Let off the hook?
45 Cudgel
46 Kernels' cores
47 Wrinkly citrus
48 Bobbin
49 Recording
53 Whopper
54 Siesta
55 Type measures

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	S	K		B	A	B	E		M	E	M	O		
L	E	O		A	N	O	N		I	R	A	N		
U	R	N		C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E		
M	A	G	M	A			S	A	W					
			O	R	B	S		M	A	R	C	H		
V	A	L	I	D	A	T	E		Y	A	L	E		
A	L	A		I	R	A	Q	I		G	O	B		
M	O	I	L		I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E		
P	E	C	O	S		D	I	C	E					
			C	U	E			H	E	I	S	T		
L	I	Q	U	I	D	A	T	E		O	U	R		
O	N	U	S		E	P	I	C		W	B	A		
G	N	A	T		N	E	C	K		A	S	P		

Sudoku

4		8		7	2			9
	5		8					2
	2		1				3	
5							8	
		9	7		3	1		
	1							4
	6				5		7	
1					6		2	
8			2	9		3		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	8	7	6	3	5	4	1	9
6	9	3	1	2	4	7	8	5
4	1	5	9	8	7	2	6	3
3	4	1	5	7	2	6	9	8
7	6	8	4	9	3	1	5	2
5	2	9	8	6	1	3	4	7
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
1	3	4	2	5	9	8	7	6
8	5	2	7	1	6	9	3	4

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Ducky, I can't wait to be your husband. St. Paddy's Day can't come fast enough. I am truly lucky to have such a sexy, amazing, caring woman like you. I am all in.
Love **NICK**

Jessie, Mamichula. The way you transcend from my dreams to the first thought as i wake up every morning should make the headlines of every paper worldwide. You are the cuddle to my hug, the kiss to my lips and the reflection of my true loves intention.
Te amo. **RUBEN – PAPI**

My Bella, In you I have found the love of my life. My heart skips a beat when you're near, and I am nothing but thankful for having you to share with. Looking forward to a wonderful future with you. Truly, madly, deeply.
CHRIS

Today -2°/-6° Variable
Friday -3°/-11° Partly cloudy

The Weather Network
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TWN incorporates MSC data

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your mind may be turning to fun and festivities but this is still the ideal time to get on the good side of employers and people in positions of authority. Let them know you work hard.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The old days are over and there is no going back. Once you accept that fact you will find that a whole new world of possibilities opens up to you, a world that has always been there but which you were too blind to see.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You need help with your money situation and if you don't speak up right away you are unlikely to get it. Confide in those you trust and, most importantly, take their advice.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be gentle and generous with friends and family members. No matter how many times in the past you may have fallen out you will get along brilliantly today and over the holiday period.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Take life at a more relaxed and enjoyable pace. You've done as much as you can for the time being and now you have every right to cut back on your busy schedule and enjoy the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You've had more than your share of up and downs in recent weeks but now everything will smooth out again, at least for a while.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Home and family matters will be less of a burden than they have been of late. Your problems won't just disappear, of course, but they won't seem quite so important any more.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you stay at home by yourself or spend all your time on your work you will reduce your options considerably and miss out on opportunities in the wider world.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Forget about dollars and cents and have a good time. If you can't have fun at this time of year when can you? Your financial situation may not be perfect but neither is it disastrous.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may be acutely concerned with your status and reputation but every now and then you go to the other extreme and play the fool, just for laughs. Today will bring out the comedian in you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even though a dozen other voices say you should be doing the opposite. Do what your heart says is right and proper.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Express your opinions openly and honestly. Some people may be offended but that just shows you are on the right track, that your criticisms have found the target. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

THOMAS LOHNES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
Yorkgate Mall
25 York St.
2187 Queen St. E (The Beach)
2365 Yonge St. (north of Eglinton)
2899 Steeles Ave. W
720 King St. W
455 Danforth Ave.
25 Davenport Rd.
727 Bloor St. W
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
29B St. Joseph St.
1500 Royal York Rd.
1750 The Queensway
980 Albion Rd.
2610 Weston Rd.
5050 Dufferin St.
1184 Kennedy Rd.

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton

Bramalea City Centre
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Sq.)
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)

Mississauga

Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
2585 Skymark Ave.
3024 Hurontario St.
6200 Dixie Rd.
34 Bristol Rd. E
4920 Tomken Rd.

Oakville

Oakville Place
18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Markham

Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Newmarket

Upper Canada Mall
1100 Gorham St.

Richmond Hill

Hillcrest Shopping Centre
11005 Yonge St.

Thornhill

Promenade Mall
7040 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan

Vaughan Mills
81 Zenway Blvd.
10019 Keele St.
160 Cidermill Ave.
4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge

4220 Steeles Ave. W

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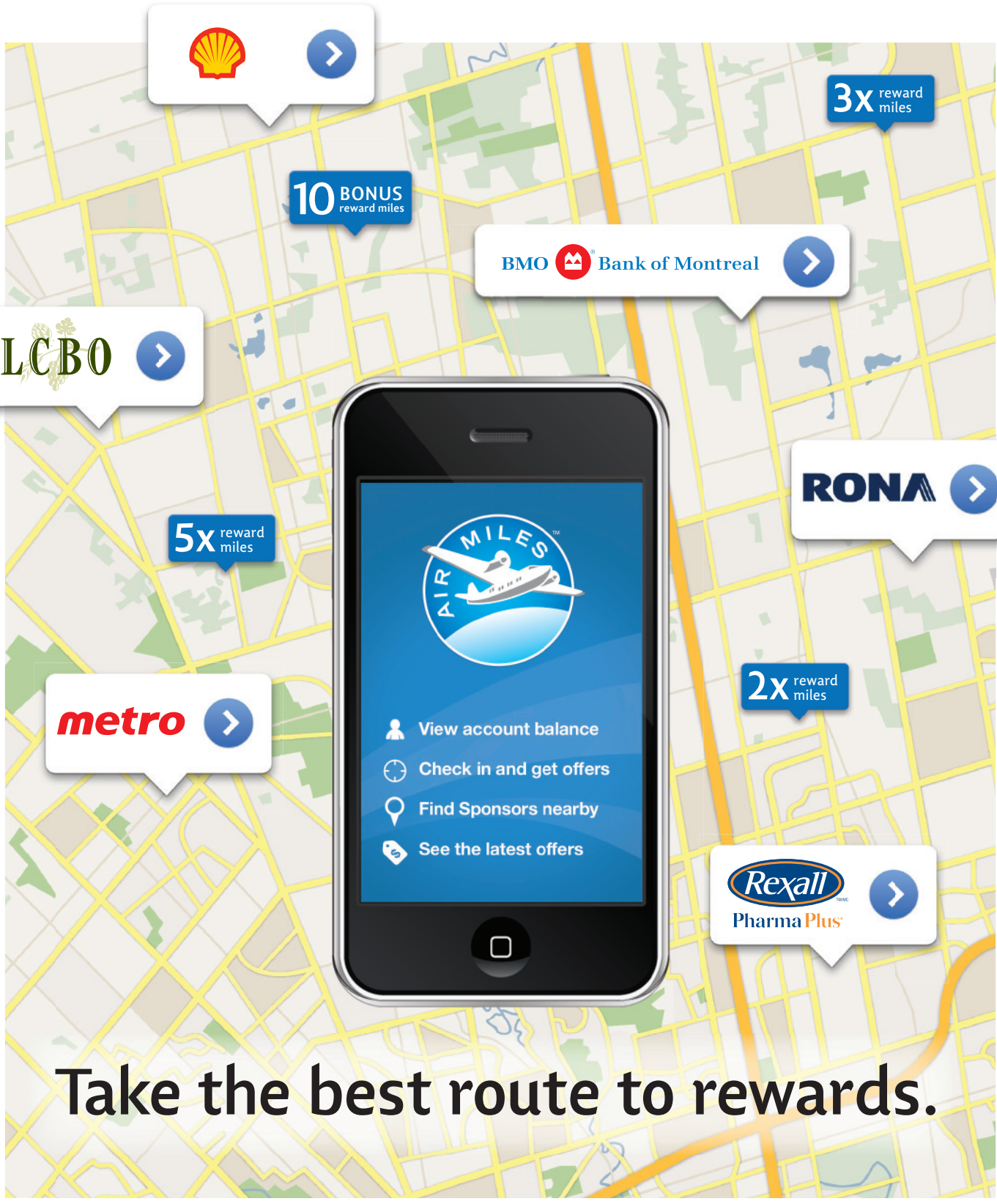

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